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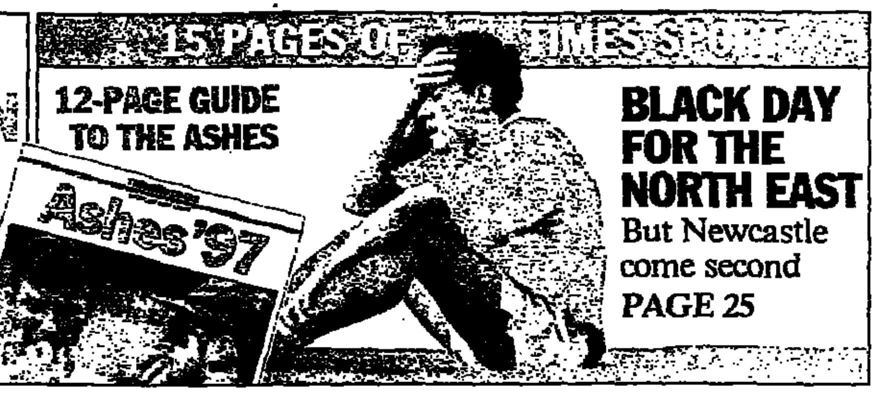

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TODAY

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TODAY

Melvyn Bragg: What Labour will do for the arts

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THURSDAY

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PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Ex-ministers turn on challenger

Double blow to Howard's bid for leadership

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

MICHAEL HOWARD'S Tory leadership bid suffered a serious setback yesterday with revelations that two former ministerial colleagues plan to go public with damaging allegations about his performance as Home Secretary.

Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister of State from July 1995, will break her silence over Mr Howard's controversial dismissal of Derek Lewis as director general of the Prison Service in October 1995.

Miss Widdecombe, who fiercely opposed the decision and is supporting Peter Lilley for the leadership, will make a series of criticisms of Mr Howard's role in a letter to John Major. In a move aimed at limiting Mr Howard's chances of succeeding Mr Major, she will publish the letter only weeks before the first leadership ballot.

She has also not ruled out making a highly charged personal statement to the House of Commons about the controversy over Mr Lewis. Such a move would stir memories of Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech which fatally wounded Margaret Thatcher. It could inflict serious damage on Mr Howard's campaign.

But the attack will not be restricted to the row over Mr Lewis, who was dismissed, against the advice of senior prison managers, in October 1995.

Miss Widdecombe, who has told friends that Mr Howard is "dangerous stuff" and has "something of the night" in his personality, will seek to raise concern among the 164 MPs voting in the contest about his ability to withstand pressure, his man-management skills, and alleged refusal to accept blame when the going gets tough.

"I've got the dream ticket — William Hague and Baby Spice"

Friends of Mr Howard rallied to his defence and said MPs would see through the Widdecombe attack. David Maclean, a former Home Office minister, is a key member of the Howard campaign team. "It shows that he is a good minister to work with," said one Howard supporter.

But as Mr Howard's supporters attempted to play down the intervention of Miss Widdecombe, who they dismissed as acting out of "personal pique," they suffered a second blow. *The Times* has learnt that Charles Wardle, a former Home Office immigration minister, is planning to raise an issue in the Commons which has dogged Mr Howard and the Tory Party.

Mr Wardle is seeking an adjournment debate to raise a damning report by the Department of Trade and Industry into the takeover of Harrods by Mohamed Al Fayed. The report led to a serious clash between Mr Howard and Mr Wardle. Mr Wardle rejected, on the advice of Home Office civil servants, a citizenship application by Mr Al Fayed's brother. Relations between Mr Howard and Mr Wardle, whose decision was upheld, have never recovered. If Mr Wardle secures his debate before the leadership election it could renew the pressure on Mr Howard.

A friend of Mr Wardle, who has not decided which candidate to support but will choose between John Redwood, William Hague and Peter Lilley, said last night: "Charles is not being vindictive against Michael Howard. But he believes there are things that have to come out now because there are too many unresolved issues and questions left hanging in the air."

The move by Mr Wardle has prompted some friends of Mr Howard to speculate on whether there is an organised "stop Howard" campaign. All six leadership camps have taken vows not to act against each other. But some of Mr Howard's supporters suspect that "dirty tricks" are afoot.

The launch of Mr Howard's leadership bid was overshadowed last week when his supporters leaked details of an apparent agreement, struck over champagne, for Mr Hague to act as his deputy.

Mr Howard appeared relaxed yesterday about the plan by Miss Widdecombe to go public. He told the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*: "Ann and I disagreed about a very important decision, the dismissal of Derek Lewis as head of the prison service.

"I had to overrule her because there was an independent report which made very serious criticisms of the prison service management from top to bottom.

"Ann felt very strongly about that. We disagreed. I am convinced the decision we made was the right one and few decisions have been subject to more Parliamentary scrutiny — including a debate on the floor of the House of Commons — than that one."

A key aide to Mr Howard said: "People will see through this. It is personally motivated. One of the key members of the campaign team is David Maclean. That will speak volumes. He was one of the most talented members of the government and he is supporting Michael."

The controversy over Mr Lewis's sacking and prison standards led to a full-scale Commons row two years ago. Mr Howard suffered an embarrassment when the Home Office made a £220,000 settlement to Mr Lewis after he took the case to court for wrongful dismissal.

Hague campaign, page 2
Letters, page 21

Chiara Mastroianni, daughter of the late Marcello Mastroianni, at the screening of Johnny Depp's *The Brave* at Cannes. Reports page 7; reviews, page 19

Tehran appeals for quake aid from the West

From James Bone
New York

IRAN'S Islamic Government last night appealed to the United Nations for help after a powerful earthquake devastated villages in the mountainous northeast of the country. Latest estimates put the death toll at some 2,400.

The earthquake, measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale, on Saturday levelled houses in scores of villages across the saffron-producing province of Khorasan, which borders Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Some 10,000 families are believed to have been made homeless.

Tehran officially called for emergency shipments of food, tents, blankets, clothing, four-wheel-drive vehicles, ambulances and water tankers, life-detectors and white sheets, presumably for use as shrouds.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, urged the international community to "respond promptly and with generosity", and several Western governments immediately stepped forward with contributions of help.

The UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs announced an emergency grant of $50,000 (£30,000) for the local purchase of relief supplies. It also put a small disaster assessment and coordination team on standby for immediate despatch to the area. A small team of UN officials based in Iran also travelled to the earthquake zone to make a preliminary assessment of damage. Aircraft, however, were flying only as far as Mashhad, the provincial capital. The epicentre is about 230 miles further south near the city of Qayen.

Rescue race, page 10

Budget will include phasing-out of Miras

By Arthur Leathley and Alasdair Murray

GORDON BROWN will use his first Budget to open a purge on the "get-rich-quick" culture and to use new taxes to fund a radical five-year welfare programme.

One of the biggest changes will be the phasing out of mortgage interest tax relief that gives about 10 million homeowners help of £27 a month. Mr Brown is also preparing to begin an overhaul of the corporate taxation system in the mini-Budget which may come as soon as June 10.

Mr Brown has told colleagues that the mortgage relief, or Miras, cannot be sustained by a Labour Government and he will continue the phasing out the relief begun by the Conservatives but put on hold in the run-up to the election. At present, tax relief is given at 15 per cent on the first £30,000 but Mr Brown is understood to consider the allowance an anachronism and believes that money should be channelled into providing housing for the homeless.

However, the Chancellor is not expected to end the relief at a stroke but is likely to signal a gradual phasing out by removing the allowance from new mortgages. Although estate agents insist that such a move will harm the housing market in its early stages of recovery, government sources argue that the property market is becoming strong enough to withstand the change.

The Chancellor will unveil a range of measures extending well beyond the windfall tax and value-added tax proposals announced before the general election.

As well as taxing what he describes as the excessive short-term profits of the privatised utilities, Mr Brown will an-

Continued on page 2, col 5

Cook denies single currency rumours

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, today squashes speculation in financial markets about Britain joining a European single currency at an early stage.

In an interview with *The Times*, he says this remains "unlikely" before the next election and claims that the decision has not been affected by the Government's move to transfer responsbility for setting interest rates to the Bank of England. He says the decision was purely about interest rate policy in Britain............ Page 20

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Pragmatic Brown suits himself in the City

By Andrew Pierce
and Carol Midgley

GORDON BROWN will abandon formal dress for a lounge suit when he delivers the Chancellor's Mansion House speech next month. Mr Brown, who has already won plaudits from the Square Mile for surrendering control over interest rates to the Bank of England, has slain another sacred cow.

When he rises to his feet in the cathedral-like dining room opposite an imposing statute of the Duke of Wellington he will be wear his "working clothes", an aide said yesterday.

The change comes only days after the Prime Minister decreed "call me Tony" at his first Cabinet meeting. The decision was also based on pragmatism by the canny chancellor.

Only last year the formal dress for this occasion was changed from white tie to black. Mr Brown intends to relax the code even further.

Lord Mayors of London have been hosting the dinner at the Mansion House, a focus of the business community, since 1877. They regard it as an important social bridge between the City and the Government especially on the frequent occasions when the two are otherwise barely on speaking terms.

Mr Brown's decision will create a dilemma for the 350 guests, who resemble a Who's Who of the City and business world. Will they take their cue from the Chancellor or from Alderman Roger Cork, the Lord Mayor.

An aide to the Lord Mayor said: "As you know the City is a very formal place. Black ties are the normal practice in the City and the West End. The Mansion House speech is a very formal occasion. But if the principal guest decides to wear something less formal he will not be made any less welcome."

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Lottery shake-up seeks to abolish giant profits

Arthur Leathley on plans by Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, to switch funds to education and health

RADICAL changes to the running of the National Lottery will be introduced by the new Government as ministers act to curb profits for the operator.

The lottery regulator's current dual role in awarding the next lottery contract, and checking that the national draw is properly run, will be abolished.

Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, is also drawing up plans to prevent the company awarded the next contract from making profits out of the £4 billion a year business.

New legislation to be announced on Wednesday will also ensure that two separate regulators will in future be involved in the separate functions of awarding the lucrative contract and checking that it is being run in the best interest of the public.

The moves, to be unveiled in the Queen's Speech, are in response to public criticism of Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, who was accused of being too closely involved with one of the companies behind Camelot, the lottery operator.

Mr Davis accepted hospitality from GTech, an American company that led the Camelot bid for the contract, and he was forced to defend himself against claims that the hospitality had influenced his decision to award the contract.

A lottery bill to be introduced in the autumn will ensure that the contract goes to a non-profit organisation. Extra funds will be channelled into additional educational and health-service projects as the Government curbs the amount of money available as profit.

Labour insists that the new money, expected to be £1 billion over five years, will not reduce the amount currently paid to sport, the arts, heritage projects and charities. The position of Mr Davis himself is also in doubt as senior Labour figures have voiced concerns over his past failure to insist that Camelot gained smaller profits from the venture.

Although Camelot insists that its profits represent less than one per cent of turnover, Mr Smith believes that all money should go to good causes and running costs.

The lottery will not come under the windfall tax proposed by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, on excessive profits of some companies. Senior Labour figures made clear that Camelot did not come under the privatised companies intended to be hit by the one-off tax.

Labour also wants to ensure a quick decision on the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition and would "talk tough" with British Telecom over the plans for the information superhighway promised in return for a faster entry into the entertainment market.

Mr Smith said yesterday that the next lottery contract, due for renewal in four years, will not allow profits to be made out.

"Once the initial franchise comes to an end in about three or four years, we can go for a non-profit organisation, so that every single penny that we can get goes either to prizes or to good causes rather than into the pockets of the people who are running it," he said.

"What I am concerned about is to make sure that the way in which the lottery is being regulated is indeed good and tough on behalf of the people who play the lottery."

When Camelot was awarded its seven-year contract, it forecast that it would not make a profit for at least three years. In the event, the company recovered start-up costs within six months.

In 1995 it earned a pre-tax profit of £10.8 million. In 1996, its first full year, it had pre-tax profits of £77.5 million on turnover of £5.2 billion. In the first six months of the current year, profits were £20.8 million.

Camelot's shareholders are: Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery company; De La Rue, the security printer; ICL, the computer company; Racal Electronics; GTech Corporation, the US lottery specialist. Last year they shared a dividend of £18.4 million.

Hague takes his message to party's grass roots

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

WILLIAM HAGUE is to take his campaign for the Tory leadership to the party's local activists. Mr Hague, who is emerging as a popular choice as the successor to John Major, will embark next week on a tour of constituency associations in a bid to harness the support of local Conservatives. The former Welsh Secretary, 36, said yesterday that the Conservative Party needed a completely fresh approach to regain voter appeal.

"We are going to make a fresh start ... and put behind us the disputes that have dogged the party," he said. Rifts had to be healed, Mr Hague said, and the Conservatives must not become a debating society on Europe. "All areas of policy are up for review. We must be prepared to change anything and everything, except our core principles," he said.

Speaking on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*, Mr Hague said: "We need to bring thousands of new people in the party — people of my generation whose support we haven't tapped into in recent years and say to them: 'help us to develop our policies.'"

He said the Conservatives would have to show it was "ruthlessly intolerant" of sleaze and misbehaviour in the party. "We have to get rid of the image and make clear we are as intolerant of what has become known as sleaze as anybody else in the country."

Mr Hague said that the general election reflected the volatility of voters' preferences and that they would soon become "fed up" of the Labour Government. "I dare to say we will win the next general election. Just because we have lost by a large margin doesnt mean the voters have moved away from us forever."

William Hill has made William Hague odds-on favourite to be next leader of the Tories. The bookmaker cut his odds from 11-10 to 4-7 and offers 9-2 Kenneth Clark, 11-2 Michael Howard and Peter Lilley, 14-1 Stephen Dorrell and 16-1 John Redwood.

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

William Hague and his leadership rival Michael Howard were both interviewed by Sir David Frost yesterday

Another contender for the Tory leadership, Stephen Dorrell, called yesterday for a "thoroughgoing reform" of the structure of the Conservative Party.

The former Health Secretary gave warning that the party would have to change and adapt or face the prospect of further election defeats.

Speaking on LWT's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme, Mr Dorrell admitted that the Tories had often appeared to be nothing more than a "rabble" during the last Parliament and that this had contributed to their defeat.

It seems that the former Welsh Secretary has been given a boost by the backing of senior Tories and a Gallup poll showing he has by far the most electoral appeal of all the candidates.

Mr Hague's chances have been helped by evidence that he is likely to gain the overwhelming backing of the constituency associations. They cannot vote — the franchise is limited to Tory MPs — but are consulted by their MPs.

The former Conservative Cabinet minister Lord Tebbit, writing in *The Sunday Times*, praised John Redwood, who resigned from the Government in 1995 to make his first challenge for the Tory party leadership. Lord Tebbit said: that Mr Redwood was not on the bridge when the captain of the ship rammed it on to the rocks. At any court of inquiry, less blame must attach to the man shouting 'alter course, rocks ahead' than to those who failed to see the danger ahead or reason to alter course.

"Despite that, my wholehearted support would go to Howard, Lilley or Redwood — whoever is elected. And I hope that if any one of these is seen to be the clearly favoured candidate the others will fall in behind before nominations close."

Ministers fear guns ban will disrupt schedule

BY STAFF REPORTERS

FIREARMS campaigners yesterday welcomed Tony Blair's proposal to ban all handguns by the end of the year, but he faces resistance from senior ministers.

The Prime Minister signalled that the Queen's Speech will announce plans to extend the Firearms Act outlawing full-bore pistols to include less powerful .22 weapons.

Senior party figures fear the debate will take up time needed for other legislation and believe it should wait until next year. One Cabinet minister said yesterday: "There are important measures of our own that we have been waiting to introduce for 18 years without having to tidy up recent Tory legislation. I'm not sure we need to revisit this quite so soon."

However the Prime Minister has a personal commitment to the issue. He was said to be deeply moved after meeting families of the Dunblane victims last year and has invited them to a private audience in London tomorrow, the day before the Queen's Speech.

His pledge to outlaw all handguns and offer a free vote last October followed a speech to the the party conference by Ann Pearston, organiser of the Snowdrop campaign. Mrs Pearston, who knew many of the 16 children who died alongside their teacher in the massacre in March last year, said yesterday: "Ordinary people are walking with a spring in their step. They feel they have been listened to. I felt quite emotional and uplifted myself this morning."

Dr Mick North, whose daughter Sophie, aged five, was among the 16 dead children, said a delegation was making arrangements for the trip. "We welcome the news that this is going to be included in the first Queen's Speech. I certainly felt it was important to deal with this straightaway. I think it is a reflection of the Government's own concerns."

Shooting organisations argue that a total ban would be draconian and ineffective. Mike Yardley, national spokesman for the Sportsman's Association, said compensation and the job losses would cost the taxpayer millions of pounds. He forecast the closure of many rifle clubs, which depend on revenue from handgun owners.

"We seem to be seeing political correctness evolving into a new authoritarianism," he said. "This legislation is not about saying to people you can only keep guns at a club, it is about completely wiping out an historic sport and our Olympic and Commonwealth Games shooting teams, all to give the illusion that something effective has been done."

GCHQ union ban to be lifted

Civil service union leaders are expecting a government announcement this week which will lift the 13-year ban on trade union membership at the GCHQ intelligence centre in Cheltenham.

"We warmly welcome the opportunity for the restoration of the right of GCHQ workers to join a union," said an official of the biggest civil service union, the Public Services, Tax and Commerce union. The ban was imposed by Margaret Thatcher's Government in 1984.

Girl hopes fade

Hopes of finding Kirsty Tidman, 14, alive appeared to be fading after Paul Pearson, 30, her cousin, who had been questioned over her disappearance, committed suicide. Kirsty was last seen close to her home in Charlton, south London, last Sunday. But on Friday Mr Pearson was found dead at the house where he lived with his mother.

Hunger strike

Asylum seekers being held at Winson Green prison in Birmingham are refusing food in protest at conditions, the Prison Service has confirmed. Ten men refusing food but still accepting fluids are said to be angry at being kept in a jail while their applications for refugee status are considered by the Home Office.

Bhutto visit

Speculation that Benazir Bhutto, the deposed prime minister of Pakistan, will seek political asylum in Britain has been increased by a private visit to London, during which she was said to be looking at schools for her children. Mrs Bhutto and her husband are facing charges of alleged corruption.

Yates denial

Paula Yates's mother denied reports that Hughie Green was the father of her daughter. Heller Bosman, 59, said from the South of France: "Paula was conceived a month after my marriage to Jess Yates." A friend of Mr Green claimed at his funeral that the television host had fathered an illegitimate daughter.

Toy ferry launch

Liverpool's answer to Thomas the Tank Engine — a ferry called Gerry — is set for a summer launch on the River Mersey by Peter Ogunsiji, a businessman. He hopes that the new toy, developed with the help of Liverpool University, can restore toy manufacturing to Liverpool, which was the original home of Meccano.

Tax shake-up

Continued from page 1

nounce plans to discourage savers and corporate investors from short-term investments. He will also use his mini-Budget to outline a range of longer-term intentions that will be introduced in later Budgets.

The package is intended to raise more than £5 billion towards plans to create jobs and provide housing for the homeless. Mr Brown has made clear that his public spending review will be completed in time to allow him to implement a three-year spending plan from 1998 to prompt increases in priority areas.

He promised a Bill releasing, over time, £5 billion of capital receipts from council house sales to kick-start a massive new social housing programme and action to find jobs for a million single mothers.

The windfall tax is also intended to fund a programme to bring long-term unemployed and the young into work.

The windfall tax, under which privatised utilities will face a one-off tax on "excessive profits", will be the centrepiece of the Budget. Labour aides suggest that the money raised from the tax will be higher than the £3 billion initially expected.

Mr Brown hinted yesterday that BT was likely to be included alongside the privatised utilities, a move that is certain to hit the company's share price when trading begins this morning. Although water and electricity companies were known to be prime targets of Mr Brown's windfall tax, there was considerable doubt about BT.

Analysts believe BT could escape lightly, given the prominent role the company is expected to play in the Government's ambitious plans to upgrade Britain's access to information technology over the next few years.

The Chancellor has been critical of the taxation system which he believes encourages companies to pay cash to shareholders through dividends rather than reinvesting in their businesses.

Mr Brown has also expressed concern that institutional and private shareholders are not encouraged to hold shares for the long term under the current taxation system. Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, said that Mr Brown was acting "in a tearing hurry" and would cause long-term harm to Britain's economic prospects. "To start playing about with corporate taxation, taxation on investment as he is proposing, is very dangerous indeed."

The Chancellor is considering plans which include the phasing out of advanced corporation tax, changes in the rate of corporate taxation and the introduction of two rates of capital gains tax. A thorough reform of the corporate taxation is likely to prove too complicated to complete before the mini-Budget.

Lib Dems lay claim to Scotland Shadow role

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Liberal Democrats are to challenge the right of the Tories to field a Shadow Scottish Secretary against the Government in the Commons, after the defeat of every Conservative MP in Scotland.

Liberal Democrat representatives are to meet the Speaker of the House, Betty Boothroyd, to argue that their party should be recognised as the official opposition on Scottish issues.

They want their spokesman on Scottish affairs, Jim Wallace, to appear at the dispatch box opposite the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar. The Liberal Democrats have ten seats in Scotland.

A spokesman for the Scottish Office said the decision was for the Commons authorities. "The Scottish Secretary will take Scottish questions at Scottish Question Time. It is not really a matter for him who is the person at the dispatch box."

The Liberal Democrats and the Tories are also both laying claim to the part of the Opposition front bench which is not occupied by the Shadow Cabinet.

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They grow up fast and they are living extra months. Now scientists suggest massage for older pets

Dogs are taking a little longer to have their day

By Lin Jenkins

LIFE goes by so fast. Middle age arrives before you know it. But then, the older years are lasting longer and you need someone to look after your aching bones.

This was the new image of a dog's life yesterday. Scientific endeavour has discovered that it is longer, if not harder, than we thought.

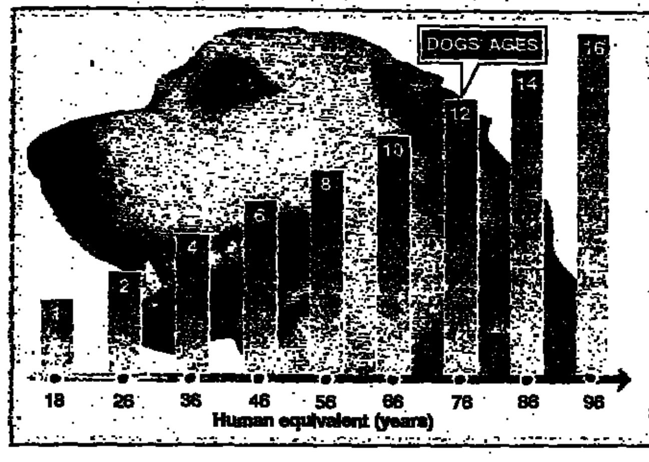
While most of Britain's 6.5 million dog owners persist in thinking that one dog year equates to seven of our own, veterinary science has abandoned the classroom method of assessing equivalent ages and revealed that so rapid is canine development that a one-year-old dog is like a fully grown and sexually mature 18 year old.

"Your dog has reached its late teens by its first birthday and by its second it had been to university, got its degree, bought its first house and the baby is on the way," according to David Watson, a veterinary surgeon who has been researching the greying of our canine population.

Man's best friend, like its owner, is living longer and prompting the massive commercial interests in the pet industry to adapt products for those greying around the muzzle. Dogs are living on average 18 months longer than they did 30 years ago, probably because of better general care and feeding.

Middle age for most dogs comes at about six or seven, which equates to a humans in their mid to late-40s. A significant number of mongrels, if not their purebreed pedigree cousins, now live into the late teens or even early twenties.

The study found that one third of dogs were classed as "seniors" — aged seven or eight or older depending on the breed — while just 10 per cent were in the puppy and junior bands.



The oldest dog known to have lived in the United Kingdom was either the Welsh collie Taffy who died at the home of its owner, Evelyn Brown, in West Bromwich, West Midlands, at the age of 27 years and 313 days, or the black labrador Adjutant, owned by a game keeper in Boston, Lincolnshires, which died aged 27 years and three months in November 1963.

The new comparative ages are based on studies for the research arm of Pedigree Chum, in which dogs of a variety of breeds have been subjected to whole-body scanning with tissue mass and bone mass measured through sophisticated techniques.

Britain's most popular dog, according to registrations with the Kennel Club, is the labrador which is expected to reach 12. A Great Dane is considered old at eight and a Jack Russell terrier would not be unusual if it passed its twentieth birthday.

Mr Watson found in his study that about 14 per cent of the dog population is aged ten, as opposed to about 10 per cent in 1985. According to his new assessment of age, they would be 66 in human terms.

The pet food manufacturers have been quick to cater for the needs of those pensionable pooches. Pedigree Chum has published a booklet, *The Senior Years*, to help owners retain the youthful exuberance in their dogs. Advice includes massage to aid relaxation and relieve the aches and pains associated with ageing.

The massage programme, devised by the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy, suggests spending up to five minutes on each set of muscles in the neck, back, shoulders, thighs and lower limbs. It also advises flexing the joints by supporting a limb above and below the joint and moving it slowly and gently through the full range of movement, then moving the whole leg as if cycling.

Pedigree chums sit proudly at a dog show: in fact, the study shows that mongrels are more likely to be enjoying life long after some pets

Microchip plan could banish ref's mistakes

By Russell Jenkins

THE most vilified figure in sport, the football referee, might soon be made error-free by the use of a microchip.

Professor Nigel Allinson would like to create a "robo-ref" by using radio waves and computers to compensate for referees' innate fallibilities. Officials, he suggests, should wear a helmet similar to that of a Tornado fighter pilot so that instant replays of disputed incidents can be flashed on to the visor. The Football Association is prepared to agree to a pilot programme.

Professor Allinson, who holds the chair of electronic systems engineering at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, is to outline his plans this week in a new BBC Radio 5 series called *The 21st Century and How To Survive It*.

His conclusion will disappoint fans, however. While machines can now beat chess grandmasters, he does not foresee the referee being totally replaced. "It is important that real referees continue to make the decisions," he says.

Professor Allinson's plan will begin modestly by linking the referee's watch to a giant screen in the stadium so that fans can judge how much time is being added for injuries. Should that be approved, football will be spared the regular sight of Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, stalking the touchline with his own stopwatch in hand.

The next step would be for the referee to have a radio microphone so that he can explain decisions to irate fans. In the longer term, radio waves along the touchlines and between the goalposts could detect whether or not the ball, coated with a metal lining, had crossed the line.

Bosnia officer hits back over desertion charge

By Daniel McGrory

AN OFFICER from the British peacekeeping force in Bosnia is demanding a government investigation into why he is facing court martial for desertion 18 months after he resigned from the Army.

Robert Ryan, 31, was the first officer to order British troops to return fire during the civil war in the former Yugoslavia. He is angry that 15 armed soldiers were sent to arrest him in Bosnia and bring him back to Britain in handcuffs to stand trial.

Mr Ryan, from Biddulph in Staffordshire, describes the Army's behaviour in holding him in a military prison for a week after his arrest three months ago as "ludicrous".

The Army says the former captain with the Cheshire Regiment went absent without leave in 1995 after accepting a £6,500 payment to stay on in the services. Mr Ryan insists that stress forced him to change his mind about extending his army career and that the British Embassy in Sarajevo knew he had left the Forces to set up a business as a travel guide in the city. He says the the money was paid back to the Army. He had handed in his military kit, completed all the formalities and left a forwarding address for his new business in Sarajevo after resigning from his regiment in 1995.

Ryan: was arrested 18 months after leaving

He said: "I object to the word 'deserter'. I have never run away from anything. I don't know why it took 18 months for them to arrest me. Everyone knew where I was. I left an address. As far as I am concerned I left the Army legitimately and this is basically just an administrative dispute over money. It's a case of the left hand not knowing what the right is doing."

The Ministry of Defence said Mr Ryan's was a "highly unusual and sensitive case". A spokesman said: "It hinges on whether a soldier can just walk out when he wants."

The issue was whether Mr Ryan should have paid back what the Army calls a "financial retention incentive" to extend his army career before quitting. "He was told after changing his mind he would have to repay the money in full, but on receiving that bit of information he went absent without leave. He made an offer to repay £745 but then just walked out.

"The point isn't whether or not we knew where he was. We expect our employees to return and discuss these problems in the proper way. We don't go to them."

Mr Ryan was mentioned in dispatches for his gallantry in ordering his troops to open fire after they were ambushed on patrol in Bosnia. He has refused to accept the Army's offer to pay his salary while he awaits the court martial as he insists he is a civilian.

Pavarotti says triumphant au revoir to the Garden

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI, in tremendous vocal form, said farewell yesterday to the stage on which he first appeared in 1963. Galas apart, it was the tenor's first recital at the Royal Opera House since 1979 — and it was his last before the house closes for rebuilding.

His farewell could have been a sentimental occasion, but the only hint was in his choice of Rodolfo's Act I aria from *Bohème* as the first encore. He took over the role at short notice from an ailing Giuseppe di Stefano 34 years ago. Pavarotti, 62 this year, can still sing most of today's Rodolfos off the stage when it comes to passion, phrasing and volume.

In a long tradition, he chose to warm up with Italian art songs. These he followed with four sacred songs, unbuttoning his tailcoat for Schubert's *Ave Maria*; the loosening-up process was over.

After Bizet's *Agnus Dei*, it was *Tosca*. Pavarotti gave both of Cavaradossi's arias, lustrous in tone in front of the portrait of the Madonna in Act I and using that famous head voice to magical effect when under sentence of death in the last act.

After the break, Tosti ruled. His songs, mainly from the turn of the century, show off the voice well. Tosti settles well in the middle of the voice and more often than not allows the singer a chance for a virtuoso flourish at the end of each song. Pavarotti gave *L'ultima canzone* the full works.

Una furtiva lagrima was a reminder that Donizetti's Nemorino has long been one of Pavarotti's favourite roles and one in which he rarely misses. So to the encores. As well as Rodolfo, the part which probably above all others will always be associated with him, there was *Rigoletto*'s Duke of Mantua. He dashed straight from *Questa o quella* into *La donna e mobile* with hardly a break.

On this showing, Pavarotti should be back when the new house reopens in two years.

JOHN HIGGINS

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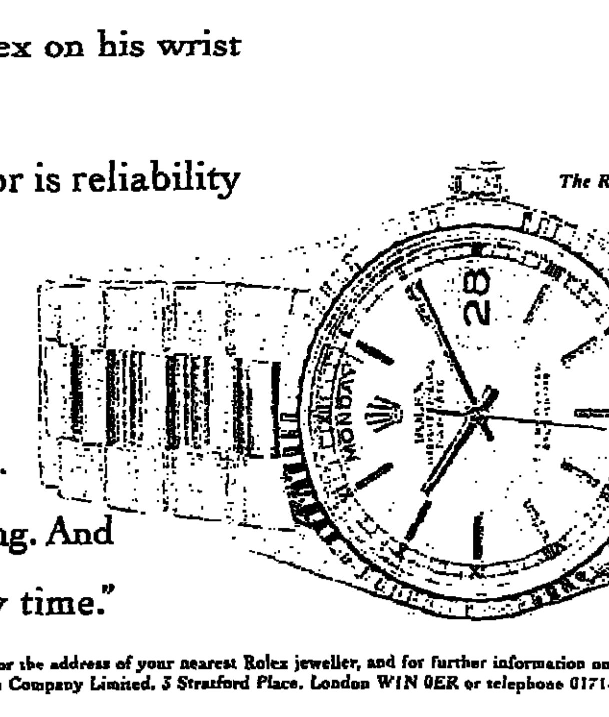

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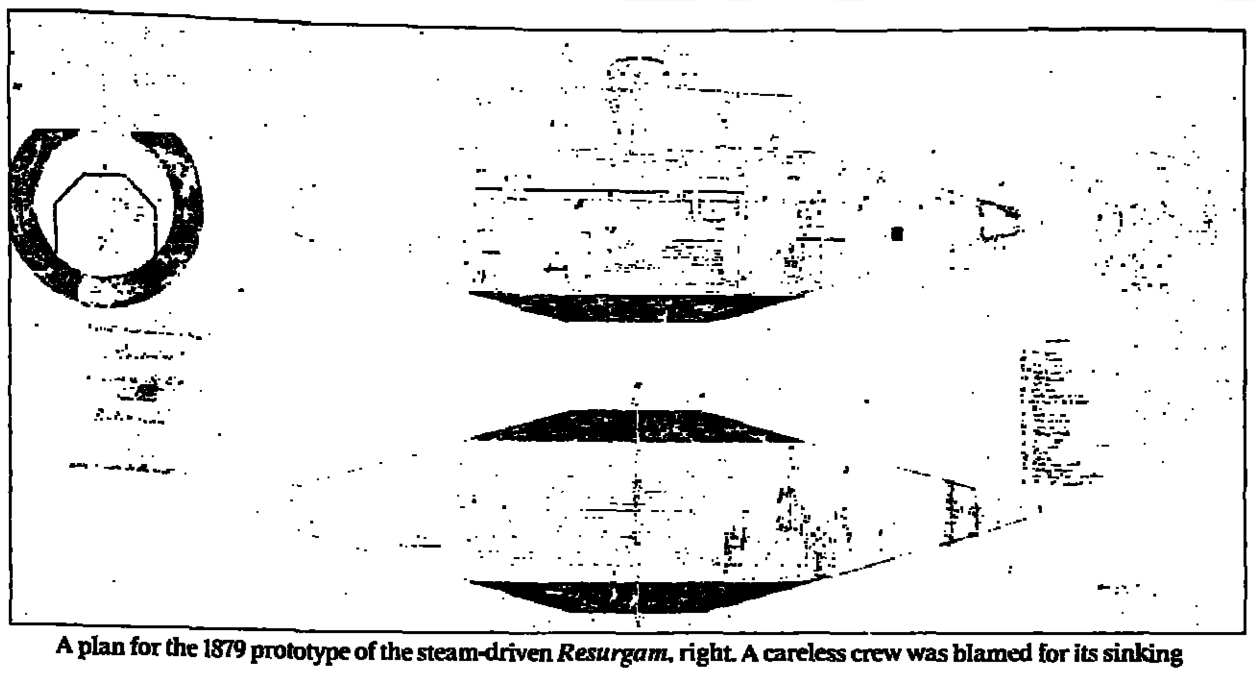
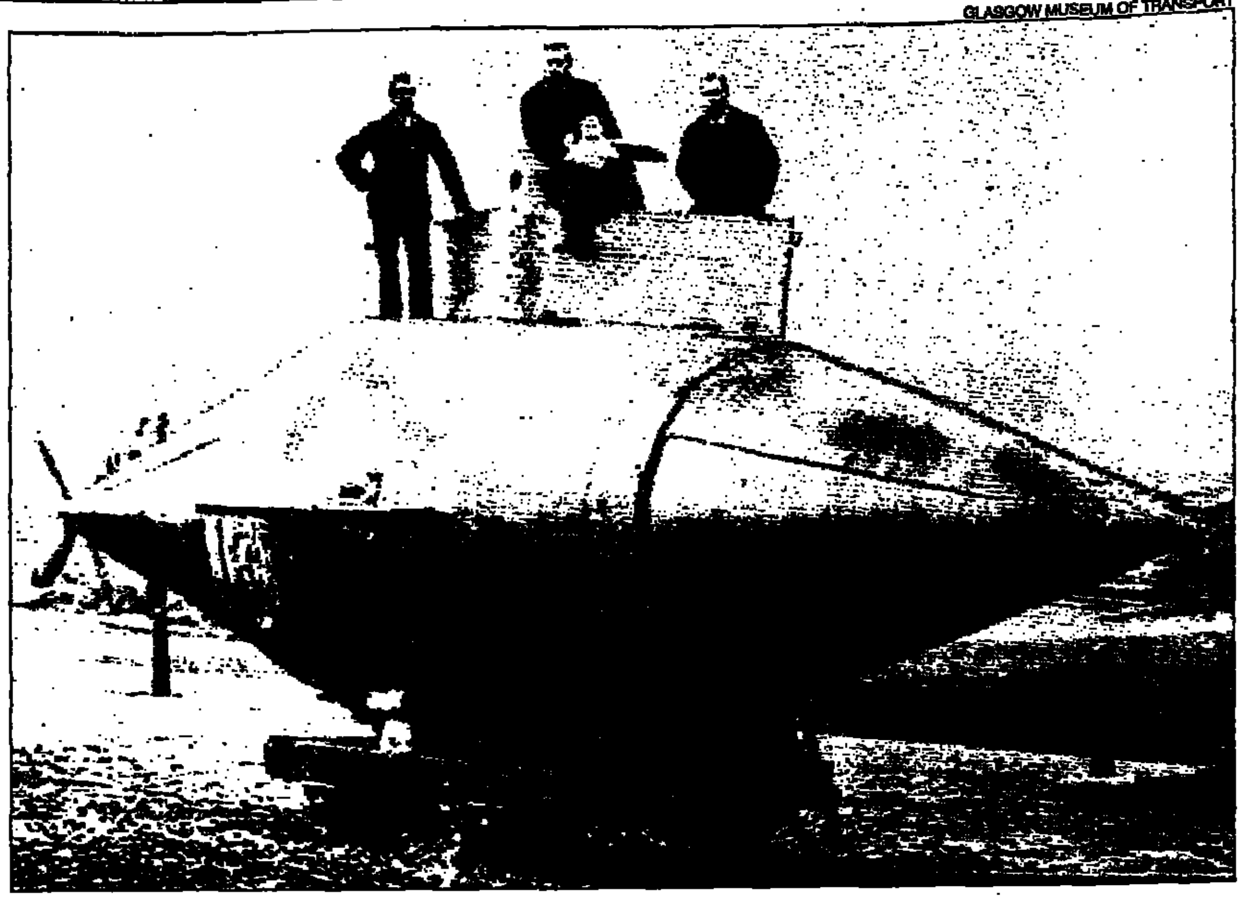
Divers prepare rescue mission for curate's invention of first engine-powered underwater vessel





A plan for the 1879 prototype of the steam-driven *Resurgam*, right. A careless crew was blamed for its sinking

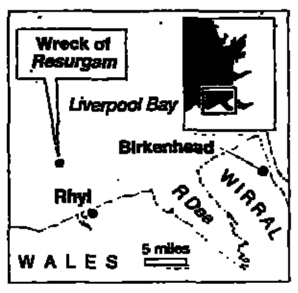
Fishing juggernauts put Victorian sub in peril

Martin Dean

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE world's first engine-powered submarine, which sank off North Wales nearly 120 years ago, may be brought to the surface to save it from being smashed by modern fishing methods. Divers are to *see if it is safe to move.*

The *Resurgam*, a three-man vessel with a steam engine, was designed by a Manchester curate. Until then submarines had been powered by crews hand-cranking the propellor. The *Resurgam* sank in 1880, three months after it was built, while being towed to Portsmouth for Royal Navy trials. Although its position is circulated to fishing fleets, marine archaeologists fear that it may be damaged or destroyed by a beam trawler, which drags a huge steel beam along the seabed.



The *Resurgam* was discovered accidentally in the autumn of 1995 by a fisherman who snagged his nets on it five miles north of Rhyl. Enthusiasts had *spent years* searching for it.

A team of 96 divers led by the Government's Archaeological Diving Unit, based at St Andrews University, will begin an intensive two-week study in June to assess the condition of the 40ft by 8ft iron frame. Martin Dean, director of the unit, said that if the *Resurgam* were hit by a beam trawler the evidence collected in June would be all that remained of an important piece of nautical history.

"This is a unique submarine," he said. "It is under threat where it is at the moment and, in my opinion, it would be sensible to think about moving it to a place of safety. However, the cost of bringing it ashore would be horrendous."

Cadw, the Welsh heritage agency with responsibility for the wreck, is considering applications from organisations interested in its future. It is understood that the Warship Preservation Trust, headed by Sir Philip Goodheart, has expressed an interest.

The divers will search the seabed around the barnacle-encrusted hull, thought to be sitting upright 55ft below the surface. It is hoped that some of its missing parts, including propeller belts, vents and the *conning tower hatch*, will be found. The crew is said to have joined the towing ship and to have left the hatch open, leaving the *Resurgam* to be sunk by a huge wave.

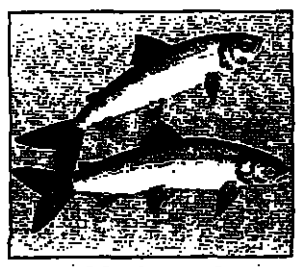
The nine-tonne vessel was designed by the Rev George Garrett of Moss Side. A prototype was built by Cochran's Boilermakers of Birkenhead in 1879 and featured the cleric's invention for air purification, an early form of breathing apparatus called a pneumatophore.

Mr Garrett, who has been called the father of submarines, had claimed that there was enough steam from the coal-fired boiler to power the vessel underwater for up to ten hours. But the fire had to be extinguished before the vessel submerged to prevent it using up the oxygen.

Submarine technology was advanced by John Holland, an Irish immigrant, whose design for one propelled by an electric motor was accepted by the American Navy in 1898. Mr Garrett went on to design vessels for the Greek and Turkish navies and some were still in use early this century. He became admiral of the Turkish Navy but later moved to the United States, where he died in poverty.

Ecologists fight to save threatened Ice Age fish

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY



At risk: the vendace

ENGLISH and Scottish ecologists have joined forces in an attempt to save Britain's rarest fish, an Ice Age relic clinging to existence in two Cumbrian lakes.

The herring-like vendace, *Coregonus albula*, is found only in Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite in the Lake District, having disappeared during this century from two small lochs in Scotland, its only other known sites.

Scientists have now introduced thousands of vendace smallfry to another Scottish loch in an attempt to establish a "safeguard" stock that would ensure the fish's survival if the Lake District populations were wiped out.

Derwent Water's vendace are in reasonably good health, but those in Bassenthwaite are struggling against pollution and growing numbers of predatory ruffe, used as live bait by anglers, which feed on vendace eggs. The rescue plan for the vendace is a joint venture by Scottish Natural Heritage, the Lake District National Park, the Environment Agency and the Institute of Freshwater Ecology. The fish is one of more than a hundred endangered species of animals and plants in Britain listed for conservation after the Rio summit of 1992.

Last December scientists collected some 100,000 vendace eggs from Bassenthwaite and in April about 30,000 smallfry hatched from the eggs were released into Loch Skeen, northeast of Moffat, in Dumfries and Galloway.

Until last month's reintroduction, vendace had been absent from Scotland for more than 20 years. The fish were still occasionally being caught in Mill Loch, near Lochmaben, west of Lockerbie, in the early 1970s, but none has been seen since then.

Vendace disappeared from Castle Loch, also near Lochmaben and their only other known home in Scotland, soon after a sewage works was built there in 1911. In the last century, vendace anglers held an annual summer festival there, catching the fish with fine gillnets and then cooking and eating them outdoors.

Ecologists believe vendace recolonised lakes in northern Britain from the sea after the ice-sheets retreated some 10,000 years ago. The fish is still an important commercial species in western Russia and northwestern parts of continental Europe.

Full-time job.
Part-time childhood.

Sangli is only nine but already he talks about his childhood in the past tense. It ended the day he started work, at just eight years old. Since then, he will tell you, life is a slog every day of the week. The seven mile walk to find a good patch, the nine hours kneeling in the dust mending shoes, the miserable 30p or so earned.

There is no play. The word doesn't enter his vocabulary. And no education, unless you include the kind you get on the streets, like how to look after yourself when a customer gets rough.

Why does he do it? Because his parents are so poor that they need, really need, his 30p a day to help pay for food and clothes.

If Sangli were the only child in the world working his childhood away it would be one too many. As it is he is one of some 55 million in India alone. Christian Aid works to combat child labour by campaigning for decent adult wages and improving families' living standards so that parents can afford to take their kids off the street.

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Being fat and spotty is a teenager's nightmare

By Ian Murray
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST children aged 11 to 16 were reported yesterday to worry about their appearance, with concerns topped by overweight, spots and ugly teeth.

According to a poll commissioned by nurses, 86 per cent of the age group — but especially girls and poorer children — fretted about the way they looked. A third thought they were too fat and a quarter worried about their skin or teeth. Almost one in ten was anxious about being underweight.

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, which commissioned the MORI poll to mark Nurses Day, said: "Our survey shows the insecurities that children can feel about the way they look, from teenage spots to severe eating disorders because of worries about weight."

Among the 4,295 children polled, those who said they were not well-off were more worried about their appearances than those from better-off families. Among poorer families, 41 per cent were anxious about being fat, compared with 33 per cent from wealthier homes. MORI says this suggests that middle-class diets are healthier and that poorer children are either overweight or have relatives who are. Less well-off children were also more conscious of bad skin (31 per cent) and teeth (29 per cent); the corresponding percentages among richer children were 26 and 24. Boys were generally less concerned about what they looked like, with 21 per cent saying they had no worries, compared with 8 per cent of girls.

Pupils at all-girl schools were generally more worried than average and white children tended to be more anxious than black or other ethnic minority children. Worries changed as children grew older. Only 13 per cent of 11-year-olds worried about their skin but a year later the proportion rose to 20 per cent. It was 28 per cent for 13-year-olds and 37 per cent for 16-year-olds. Those worried about the shape of their noses doubled from 8 to 16 per cent between 11 and 16 years.

Sandra Rote, the college's community health adviser, said that school nurses increasingly found that children were asking for advice about diet. "Fat, stodgy foods are easier and cheaper for schools to serve," she said. "Packets of crisps keep better than apples, so there is a temptation not to serve things which can go off."

Help was at hand today from a giant walking carrot called Herbie and the start of National School Meals Week. The campaign to encourage more imaginative and healthier menus is organised by Arnold Fewell of the Local Education Catering Association.

He began to urge healthier eating in 1988, when he was North Yorkshire catering officer. Mr Fewell created Herbie (Healthy Eating Really Better in Every Way) and was prompted to lose three of his own 22 stone.

STUDY GIVES ALCOPOP WARNING

Evidence that "alcopops" are encouraging children to become under-age drinkers has been found in a survey of more than 3,000 pupils in Wales Dominic Kennedy writes). The study is published as the Portman Group, the drinks industry watchdog, is understood to be seeking powers to encourage boycotts by supermarket and off-licence chains of alcoholic lemonades and colas aimed at young people. The Welsh research, published today, found that more than a quarter of girls aged 15 and 16 drank no alcohol except for the lemonade and cola-flavoured drinks. That suggested that the sweet flavours enticed children who would otherwise be deterred by the strong tastes of adult drinks, they said. In that age group, 30 per cent of girls and 24 per cent of boys drank alcopops at least weekly. Beer was found to be drunk by 54 per cent of boys and 27 per cent of girls.

Beauty and the Beast is the most expensive show ever staged in the West End

Disney's £10m show opens on a high note

By Carol Midgley

THE most expensive show ever staged in the West End opens tomorrow, with more than £5 million taken in advance bookings.

Beauty and the Beast, a £10 million musical by Walt Disney, has taken three years of planning and is expected to be as successful in Britain as it has been on Broadway, where it has been running since 1994. Julie-Alanah Brighten, 25, stars as Belle alongside co-star Alasdair Harvey from *The Phantom of the Opera*, who plays the Beast. Lyrics for five of the songs are by Sir Tim Rice.

The extravaganza, with a cast of 40, a 25-piece orchestra, a backstage crew of 75 and 230 costumes, is Disney's first foray into the West End. It is estimated to be about twice as expensive as any other show staged there. Because of the scale of the production, an extension had to be built at the back of the Dominion Theatre to make room for the wardrobe department.

Currie's taste may suffer after nose job

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

REPORTS that Edwina Currie has had surgery on her nose have produced a varied crop of news stories and cartoons, mainly unsympathetic. The former Conservative MP's nose job has been discussed as an aesthetic issue, and as a manifestation of vanity. Nobody seems to have listened to Mrs Currie's own explanation: that the surgery was performed mainly for medical reasons.

Mrs Currie may well have very good reasons for having the operation. Apart from having sustained a deflected septum in a minor accident, she also suffers from severe asthma, which is often associated with allergic vasomotor rhinitis, the periodic inflammation and engorgement of the nasal lining which occurs in certain people in response to contact with an allergen, be it pollen, moulds, household dust or Humphrey the cat. Vasomotor rhinitis is the cause of the runny and stuffed-up nose of the hay fever sufferer.

More than 70 per cent of patients with asthma and vasomotor rhinitis will eventually develop nasal polyps. The polyps are teardrop-shaped benign tumours, which, particularly when infected or inflamed as a result of contact with an allergen, swell and ooze so that they obstruct the nasal passages, causing increased snoring at night and a snuffly, nasal voice by day.

Although benign, they may co-exist with malignancies, so it is best to obtain a specialist opinion from time to time, not only so that the expert may remove an offending polyp, but also so that he or she can check that they are not concealing anything more sinister.

Nasal congestion, and hence the liability to polyps, is made worse if the nasal septum — the gristle and bone separating the nostrils — is deflected, causing a unilateral constriction. The nasal passages can be enlarged by a submucosal resection or by septoplasty — nasal septum reconstruction. Rhinoplasty — a complete remodelling of the nose — could be used to produce a more beautiful and functional nose.

After surgery Mrs Currie will be able to breathe better and snore less, and may have a different tone to her voice, but there is often a price to pay. Mrs Currie's judgment of fine food and wine may be affected. The basic tastes — saltiness, bitterness, sweetness and sourness — will still be obvious, but the subtle tastes which are the result of smell and which allow the diner to discriminate between the elusive fragrances given off by carefully constructed sauces and old wines may be lost.

Recent research has shown that even a submucosal resection, the surgical dilatation of the nasal passage, may so interfere with the nerve supply to the nasal mucosa that the chance of becoming a master of wines would be lost for ever.

Currie: she said surgery was for medical reasons

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Ministers order an MoD about-turn on Gulf War syndrome

By Daniel McGrory

DEFENCE ministers will today order a new investigation into the extent of the official cover-up over "Gulf War syndrome".

The Government is promising "substantial new resources" to discover what experts in the ministry knew about the possible damaging side-effects of vaccinations and drugs given to service personnel as protection against a chemical or biological attack from Iraqi forces.

An action plan will be unveiled by John Reid, Armed Forces Minister. Labour says the matter will be a top priority for the Ministry of Defence. Ministers will urgently consider compensation. An MoD source said: "The message is there will be no hiding in corners any more and denials that nobody knew of possible harmful side-effects."

That approach, ministers say, is in stark contrast to Whitehall's original response to deny the existence of any possible health hazards from the Gulf conflict. "What is most important is research to combat the many harmful side-effects," the source said.

The investigation is likely to embarrass the Opposition when the full extent of how Nicholas Soames, then Armed Forces Minister, was misled over the use of organophosphate pesticides during the war is brought out.

The MoD will also be told to expedite medical examinations of all those veterans complaining of ill health. About a thousand Gulf veterans have so far been examined. Mr Reid will pledge that the findings from the new research will be made public.

A series of research programmes have already been launched to compare the health of thousands of Gulf War veterans with military personnel not involved in the 1991 conflict. Former and serving troops are being enticed to fill in complex questionnaires to assist the research with the offer of entry into a £1,000 draw. Such incentives might now be increased.

Tony Flint, a spokesman for the Gulf War Veterans and Families' Association, welcomed the move last night. "This is the best bit of news we have heard for four years. We are feeling very hopeful now we are getting the recognition we wanted. Until now the Ministry of Defence and the Government treated us as if we were hypochondriacs," he said. "We hope the new research will continue where the Americans left off."

Richard Barr, a solicitor working to coordinate the investigations, said: "It is wonderful news. It represents a complete about-turn in governmental attitude." In the new spirit of openness, Mr Barr said he hoped the Government might reveal the names of some of the vaccines used to inoculate soldiers going to the Gulf.

ANDREW DUNSMORE

From a long family line: Martha delighted staff at the Animal Line sanctuary with her brood of 27 ducklings, including three adoptions

Martha the motherly mallard waddles into record books

ONE by one they trooped into the wildlife sanctuary behind their mother — 24 ducklings in a long, untidy line. But not content with coping with possibly the biggest brood on record, Martha the mallard has adopted three more. Now mother and her family of 27 are the pride of staff at the Animal Line sanctuary near East Grinstead in West Sussex. The story began when Martha, a former resident of the sanctuary, walked through the gate last week with her day-old ducklings. They were put into an infra-red treatment unit, next door to three other day-old mallard ducklings which had been abandoned at birth. The orphans' cries were heard by Martha, who broke down the thin dividing wall between and adopted them. Peter Wakeham, the owner of the sanctuary, said yesterday: "It's the biggest brood I have ever known. How on earth she managed to sit on all those eggs, turning them and keeping them at the right temperature, is beyond me. It must have been like sitting on a pyramid. She is a brilliant mother — to her own ducklings and those she has adopted."

Customs 'spy' to join Moscow's crime fighters

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

A SENIOR Customs investigator is being sent to Moscow to combat the spread of the Russian mafia into Britain and to curb drug smuggling from the former Soviet Union.

The officer will be the first member of a British law enforcement organisation to work full-time in Russia. He may eventually be joined by other police and Customs officers to form a special cell linking Russian police forces with London.

The Customs man, who is not being named for security reasons, will have the status of a middle-ranking diplomat. He will be based in the British Embassy in Moscow with a small staff. Aged 40, he is a senior investigating officer currently working in the North-East. He was formerly a drugs liaison officer in Bolivia, working with its police against the cocaine cartels.

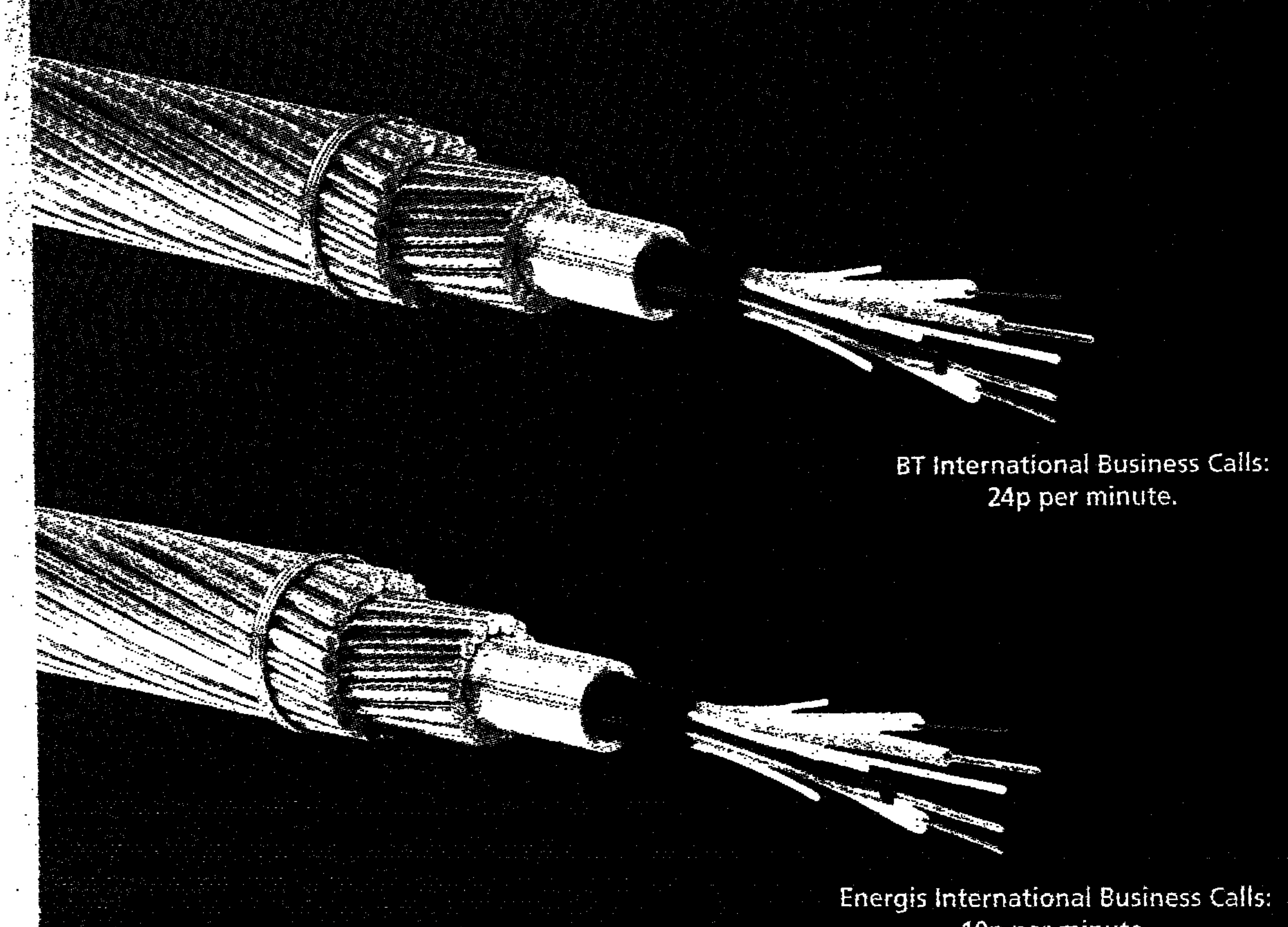
He will take up his post in the summer after his working brief has been agreed with the Russians and he has completed a Russian language course. In Moscow he will join a growing band of foreign investigators, including officers from the FBI and the German security organisation BKA. There are 53 British Customs and police officers working in 31 countries on drugs liaison. Another eight Customs officers work on financial operations, including tax fraud. Our man in Moscow will be the first Customs officer to have a much wider brief, specifically including organised crime as well as drug crime and tax fraud.

The Customs officer will build up contacts with Russian investigators and the successors to the KGB. He will also feed intelligence back to London and help to train the Russians to meet Western standards of investigation.

Customs and police say the posting is recognition of the dangers that the expanding Russian underworld poses. A Customs source said: "We see a lot of problems coming out of the old Soviet bloc and we believe this will put us ahead of the game."

The former Soviet Union has become a staging post for moving drugs into western Europe. The Asian states are also emerging as new sources for harvests of the opium poppy and cannabis. Detectives in London have gathered evidence that Russian mob leaders are laundering cash and using Britain to invest their profits.

The mysteries of modern technology.



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Dalya Alberge reports from the Cannes festival, where history has a fondness for repeating itself

Maker of slave film sees double over new Spielberg epic

A YOUNG film-maker expressed surprise yesterday that Steven Spielberg's latest film bears uncanny similarities to his own. Joel Marsden said that not only were both stories about slave-ship uprisings, but Spielberg was using the same set and the same principal actor.

Marsden's completed film, *Ill Gotten Gains*, is his debut feature and cost £1.5 million to make. Spielberg's *Amistad* has just begun filming on a £24 million budget.

"They are shooting on the same ship we used, a replica ship off the Californian coast in San Diego," said Marsden, 27, who was born to a British father in New York. The lead actor in both films is Djimon Hounsou, a West African who made his name as a model on the catwalks of Paris and Milan.

Marsden devoted three years to researching and writing his film, which features the gravel-voiced Eartha Kitt as a spirit trapped in the planks of the ship, a character inspired by West African folklore. He is in Cannes to screen his film for distributors.

He said: "It's a trend in Hollywood to have similar films and similar topics. They usually don't use the same set and the same star.. It is unusual for two films to share such similarities. If they do it, they use different stars and a different city."

At 49, Spielberg is the world's most successful film-maker, with *ET*, *Schindler's List* and *Jurassic Park* among his hits. A spokesman said that he had been working on *Amistad* for at least two years: "If he's saying Spielberg pinched the idea, I'd think that's too absurd. Spielberg doesn't have to. He wouldn't even contemplate it. He can afford to buy any ideas."

Spielberg's film tells the true story of a revolt on the Spanish slave ship *Amistad* by a cargo of 53 Africans in 1839. Marsden's script distils 500 years of history, set on one ship. He intends to invite Spielberg to his Los Angeles premiere in August. Ultimately, he said, it was simply important that films about slavery were made. "I wanted to portray the situation on a slave ship and the many uprisings on them which the history books don't talk about much."

Inspired by a visit to Senegal, and a slave house from which millions were deported, his film takes place in 1869, after the abolition of slavery. "Unfortunately, few ships were committed to the cause to end the slave trade," Marsden said.

"The enforcement of laws proved difficult, with more than 5,000 miles to patrol. Our film deals with a series of uprisings on an American slave ship and how even Americans and the subjects of other countries continued to make a quick buck out of it."

PARTIES WON'T BUCK THE TREND

The film parties got under way yesterday with MTV holding a celebration for 5,000. For those who think Cannes is following a tacky trend, there was plenty of evidence.

On a bed was a plastercast of a buxom girl on all fours which could be activated — like a bucking bronco machine for would-be rodeo riders — by the many men who clambered on to her back. Two transparent boxes like telephone booths were placed on the edge of the disco floor, each filled with three scantily clad men and women. Guests were invited to place their hands into rubber-gloves attached to holes within the glass sides of the booths and make contact.

However sleazy, such parties are serious. Among guests, deals are made and investments promised. Everything is signed the morning after. A party for the sci-fi film *The Fifth Element* cost about £2.5 million. One for New Line Cinema tonight will entertain 3,000 guests for a six-figure bill.

ANDRE CAMARA

Cannes laughter: the Spice Girls wore headscarves and dark sunglasses to mimic film stars of the Thirties and Forties

Cinema intellectuals are lost in spice

LEGENDARY stars have been reduced to artistic fury by the intense questioning at Cannes press conferences. Yesterday the Spice Girls showed they were in control by making everyone in the room do a Mexican wave.

They bossed hardened male journalists and film intellectuals, telling them how to conduct themselves. They told one to stop mumbling when addressing them, and another to uncross his arms because it was "bad body language". When "Baby Spice" Emma was asked a question by a Lebanese journalist, she said: "Oh, we've never been to Lebanon, but I've been to Debenhams."

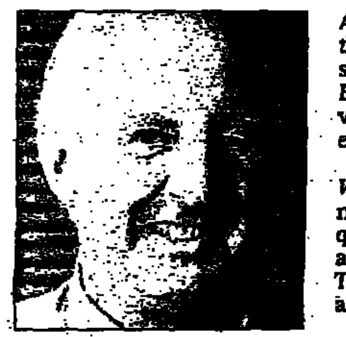
The group were promoting plans for their first feature film. They flew in to Cannes wearing headscarves and sunglasses, mimicking the stars of the Thirties and Forties. Asked about their film's plot, "Ginger Spice" Geri said: "It is about our inner and outer struggles." Thousands of fans had lined the streets for a glimpse of the British group that has broken records with four chart-topping singles in a row. The film, as yet untitled, will be directed by Bob Spiers, who worked on television's *Fawlty Towers* and *Absolutely Fabulous*.

The story of five days in the life of the band will begin filming in London next month for release at the end of the year, with Richard E Grant as their manager and other stars in cameo roles. Geri said: "It is a parody of ourselves. It is also a celebration of London in the Nineties."

Asked if she was scared of making a fool of herself by acting, "Scarey Spice" Mel B said: "We know we are not perfect but we will give it our best shot. It might be a smash hit but it might not. But at least we did it."

Asked how long they can last in showbusiness, she added: "How long is a piece of string?"

Nicholson story raises questions about the mixing of fact and fiction



Michael Nicholson

A BRITISH film based loosely on the experiences of Michael Nicholson, the ITN reporter who adopted a Bosnian child, has reopened controversy about the portrayal of real events.

Michael Winterbottom's film *Welcome to Sarajevo* depicts a mortar attack on a Sarajevo bread queue in which 16 people were killed and 110 wounded on May 27, 1992. The film intersperses archive footage with fictional material.

Speaking at a press conference launching the film, Winterbottom was compelled to defend his work against charges of bias by a former war correspondent, Paul Martin. The director insisted that, as archive footage had been used, it was an accurate reflection of what happened. Mr Martin, who reported for American television and made a documentary called *Children of War*, suggested that the archive film had been used "to add legitimacy to a nice piece of fiction". The news reports had simplified a complex war to make it more digestible for television audiences, therefore distorting what really happened, he felt. "It was far too black and white — how nasty people are firing into defenceless, valiant individuals."

The director said that he could not see how a depiction of people being massacred while queuing for something as innocent as bread could have another side. Winterbottom and the lead actor, Stephen Dillane, drew attention to the copious research that had gone into making the film. Dillane — who plays a character based on Mr Nicholson — spoke of his surprise that the journalists who went to Bosnia had not read about the region's history before going.

David Aukin, of Channel 4 Films, one of the co-funders, said that Mr Nicholson had seen and "loved" the film. One of the actors, Goran Visnjic, who had fought in the Croatian army, called the film "very realistic and very powerful".

The film opens in Britain at the end of this year and centres on a character called Michael Henderson, a British television correspondent. Discovering that an orphanage on the frontline is being bombarded by artillery fire, he campaigns for the children's safety. Frustrated by the lack of response, he feels compelled to take action, smuggling a child home.

Mr Winterbottom, whose previous films include *Jude* with Kate Winslet, said he was not seeking to offer any political solutions, nor to criticise individuals in the West. Apart from reflecting the horrors of war, he said the film explored the dilemma for journalists of whether to report events or to campaign for change. Above all, he wanted people to think about the war in Bosnia: "Even if people spend an hour and a half thinking about Sarajevo, then it's been useful."

The writer, Frank Cottrell Boyce, described it as "an act of mourning rather than analysis".

Mr Nicholson is currently on assignment in Jerusalem. His adopted daughter, Natasha, now 14, was at school in Surrey yesterday. Mr Nicholson said: "She is deliriously happy and so are we. Her ambition is to be a tennis coach."

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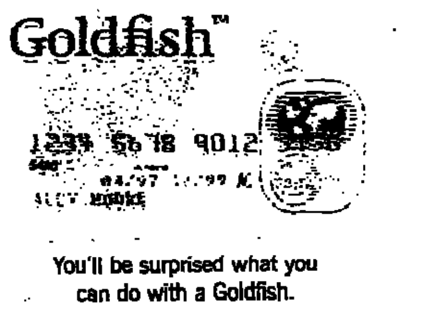

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Blunkett will force councils to close inadequate schools

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Government will force local authorities to shut failing schools that are showing no signs of improvement, following an emergency review over the weekend of the 281 which are now subject to special measures.

In his first full interview as Education and Employment Secretary, David Blunkett said he would not wait for legislation before tackling the worst schools. "I want to create momentum. Rather than the hand-wringing we saw from the last Government, we must have positive action."

Stephen Byers, the Minister for School Standards, spent the weekend drawing up a "hit list" of schools requiring attention. He will announce on Thursday how many schools have been found wanting, and they will be identified next week after their local authorities have been informed.

With action planned in the next few weeks against local authorities who are underperforming, councillors will have little choice but to accept the Government's recommendations. For some schools, this will mean closure and subsequent reopening under Labour's "Fresh Start" proposals.

The measures to be outlined next month in a White Paper will enable ministers to demand that failing schools are given new leadership and a different name. But Mr Blunkett said: "We cannot delay because for every year that passes, the school is failing its pupils and opportunities for youngsters in that age group disappear."

Blunkett: to tackle worst schools at an early stage

More than 40 schools have spent at least two years under the special measures applied to those found by inspectors to be failing. Although the weekend review suggested that some were now improving, others have had a series of reports indicating only limited progress without being taken over by an education association. Only Hackney Downs School, in East London, has suffered such a fate, closing within months of its takeover. Although other failing schools have been closed by their local authority or merged with a neighbour, invariably the action has been prompted by falling pupil numbers.

Mr Byers said yesterday: "I am shocked that the previous Government was prepared to wait for more than two years and still not take action in relation to failing schools which were not significantly raising standards. This will change. We will intervene at an early stage."

Only a handful of schools are likely to face immediate closure, but ministers are expected to demand changes of leadership or temporary supervision in at least 20 more. Those subject to the Fresh Start procedures would acquire a new identity in time for the next school year.

Ministers are planning Congressional-style hearings on the Education Bill, which will form the centrepiece of Wednesday's Queen's Speech, as the first stage of a commitment to opening up the Parliamentary process.

Mr Blunkett told *The Times* that the hearings would put into action little-used procedures to introduce a fresh style of consultation. Expert witnesses would guide MPs on legislation to ensure that new measures were workable.

He said: "Having served on numerous Bills, I know how cut off they are from the world that is carrying on its business in the normal way. I think Parliament would gain a great deal more esteem from listening to people who have got a contribution to make."

The new approach will begin this week when Mr Blunkett addresses all 4,000 civil servants in his department in Westminster Central Hall. "Many of them will never have seen previous Secretaries of State. I want to offer them a new beginning to harness their talents."

State and independent schools will receive a similar appeal today in a letter from Mr Blunkett.

Expert help for MPs is an 'old Labour' idea

ONLY eight pieces of legislation in 16 years have been subjected to the outside scrutiny that David Blunkett plans for the education Bill.

***First proposed by George* Cunningham, then a Labour MP, in the early 1970s, special standing committees were introduced in 1981 to give Parliament direct access to independent experts.**

Mr Blunkett admitted that the new administration's heavy legislative programme would be the biggest obstacle to using the system, although he was prepared to countenance amendments to his proposals.

Vernon Bogdanor, the Oxford authority on constitutional matters, said yesterday: "It would be useful to have more witnesses to advise MPs. The arrangement is more like the system in the European Parliament, which combines select and standing committees." Professor Bogdanor was on the Hansard Society commission which, in 1993, recommended greater use of the special committees.

GILL ALLEN

Head start: Claire Ward at the hairdresser's in her constituency. Her next task is to find a home

Victor is missing a share of the spoils

BY DANNY MCGRORY

CLAIRE WARD, Labour's youngest woman MP ever, still has no office in the Commons, no telephone and nowhere to live in her constituency. "Apart from that everything is fabulous," she said. "I'm wandering around with all my wordly goods in a couple of carrier bags."

Miss Ward, who was 25 last Friday as she was sworn in as MP for Watford, is among the Labour newcomers honest enough to admit they never expected to be elected.

She had expected to spend the weekend continuing her studies to be a solicitor. But yesterday she was roaming an empty House of Commons searching for somewhere to put her papers.

"A friend who has been promoted in the new Government said I could use their office and this is a good time when nobody else is around to try to find your way around this maze."

Later she was back visiting estate agents in Watford trying to find somewhere to live. That apart, her only *indulgence has been* a visit to the hairdresser's.

Smith signals changes at the top of BBC

Carol Midgley hears the Heritage Secretary voice doubts over John Birt's reforms

THE Heritage Secretary yesterday pledged to review the structure of the BBC. Chris Smith likened it to the "internal market of the National Health Service".

Mr Smith, expressing concern over the efficiency of the corporation, said he would be meeting John Birt, the Director-General, and the board of governors in the next few weeks. He said that while the much criticised reforms introduced by Mr Birt last summer had been intended to introduce competition within the BBC and increase efficiency, he worried they may have had the opposite effect. Mr Smith also stressed that the Government wished to enhance the BBC's public service role, not to see it "disintegrated".

Speaking on *Mediumwave* on Radio 4, Mr Smith said he was concerned about the BBC's new managerial structure. "It mirrors quite closely what happened with the internal market of the NHS. It is a quasi-market, not a real market, which is supposed to inject competition into the system to make it more efficient. But my worry is whether it has actually made it less efficient."

He added: "I think one of the things we need to do is see whether the BBC is fulfilling its public service role, whether it is doing it efficiently, whether the licence fee payer is getting good value for money ... and whether the role of the board of governors is a good one. They are both the regulator of what the BBC does and also ultimately the managers, and that dual role is also something I want to look at."

Mr Smith hinted that he may wish to appoint new members to the board and would consider all positions, including the chairmanship of the BBC, currently filled by Sir Christopher Bland. He said: "I will be wanting to meet with them and talk with them and form my own judgment about the direction in which they are currently wanting to take the BBC."

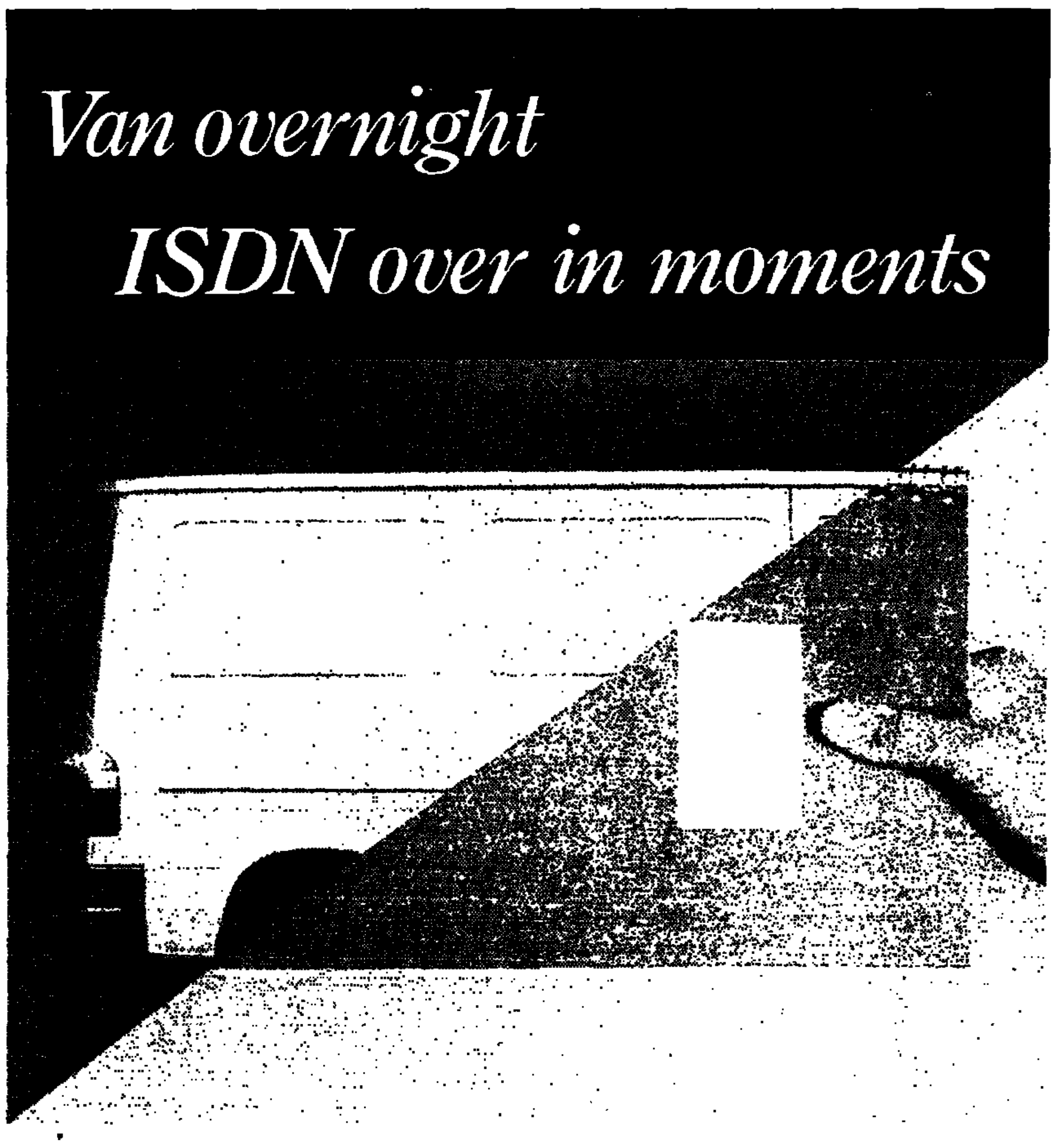
Mr Smith said that he fully supported the view put forward by Michael Jackson, the new Channel 4 chief executive, that the channel should concentrate less on foreign imports and more on British-based programmes and film making.

He said the Government had no intention of privatising Channel 4, adding: "One thing I am absolutely determined is that C4 should retain its remit to do things differently that cater for minority audiences."

He also promised to look into the role of satellite television buying up the rights to major sporting events. "My aim is ensure that ordinary viewers and listeners should have good access to sporting events. They shouldn't have to buy a satellite dish or to subscribe to a satellite channel in order to have access to sport. There are many people in this country who cannot afford to do that."

The BBC put out a statement which said: "The BBC would look forward to having discussions with Mr Smith. We are always open to scrutiny but the most rigorous and independent audit carried out before the recent licence fee renewal gave the BBC a clean bill of health, confirmed significant improvements in efficiency and showed that it provides excellent value for money."

Letters, page 21



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Convicted bomber in Sinn Fein office bid

By Nicholas Watt and Arthur Leathley

SINN FEIN has appointed a convicted IRA bomber to set up offices at the House of Commons for the party's two MPs.

Siobhan O'Hanlon, who has served a jail term for explosives offences, opened discussions with officials at the Commons after Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness won Belfast West and Mid Ulster respectively at the general election. On Saturday *The Times* disclosed that Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness want to exploit every facility at Westminster short of taking their seats, in a softening of the party's traditional abstentionist policy.

Last week Ms O'Hanlon, a leading member of Sinn Fein, wrote to the Commons accountant setting out the party's demands that the MPs have offices and use of the Commons library and postal service. Mr Adams has called Sinn Fein's policy "active abstentionism" because he and Mr McGuinness will still refuse to take the oath of allegiance to the Queen.

Sinn Fein is likely to experience difficulties with its plans because the Liberal Democrats, who are in charge of allocating offices to the smaller parties, said that they would not make any effort to help. The Government has dismissed the plans as "playing games with democracy". Conservative MPs are determined to prevent the move.

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, said yesterday that he would consult other parties and would be "very surprised if something isn't done about this".

☐ More than 1,000 mourners attended the funeral of a Roman Catholic man who was kicked to death in Portadown two weeks ago. Five men were remanded in custody yesterday at Lurgan, Co Armagh, charged with murdering Robert Hamill. A sixth man was charged later.

Leading article, page 20

MICHAEL POWELL

Squadron Leaders Cedric Hughes, left, Tony Cowan, centre, and Bill Purchase will fly up to 500 miles a day in the two RAF Chipmunks, shown practising yesterday

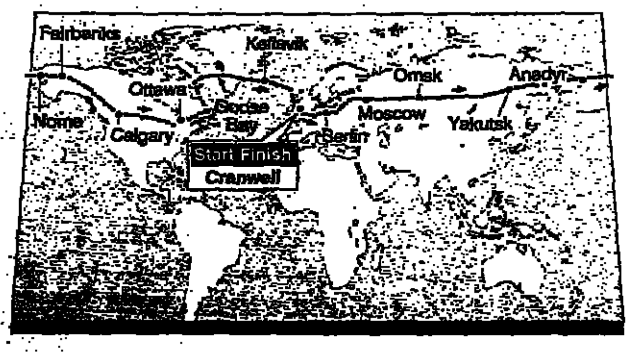
Chipmunks to cross Siberia in quest for new air route

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

ONLY seven years ago the sight of two RAF aircraft flying over Moscow would have heralded the start of a third world war. Now three RAF pilots are to take part in the first military expeditionary flight across the former Soviet Union at the invitation of the Russian Air Force.

The goodwill mission, codenamed Exercise Northern Venture, is the first such flight by any foreign air force since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1991. One of its aims will be to establish an air route across Russia for business and private aircraft.

Squadron Leaders Tony Cowan, 51, Cedric Hughes, 60, and Bill Purchase, 56, have permission to fly over Russia and land in remote regions east of the Ural Mountains in two single-seat Chipmunk turbo-prop aircraft. It is hoped that a navigator from the Russian Air Force will fly with them to assist in landing at 15 airfields within the country.



The flight, supported by an Islander aircraft carrying the third pilot with extra fuel and supplies, will be part of a six-week trip around the world. It is due to begin from London City Airport on May 20.

Squadron Leader Cowan, who will lead the expedition, said that some of the airfields east of the Urals were so remote that it was unclear what the facilities would be like. However, the Chipmunk, which was the trainer aircraft for the RAF, Royal Navy and Army for 50 years until it ended its service in March this year, can fly on four-star petrol as well as aviation gasolene.

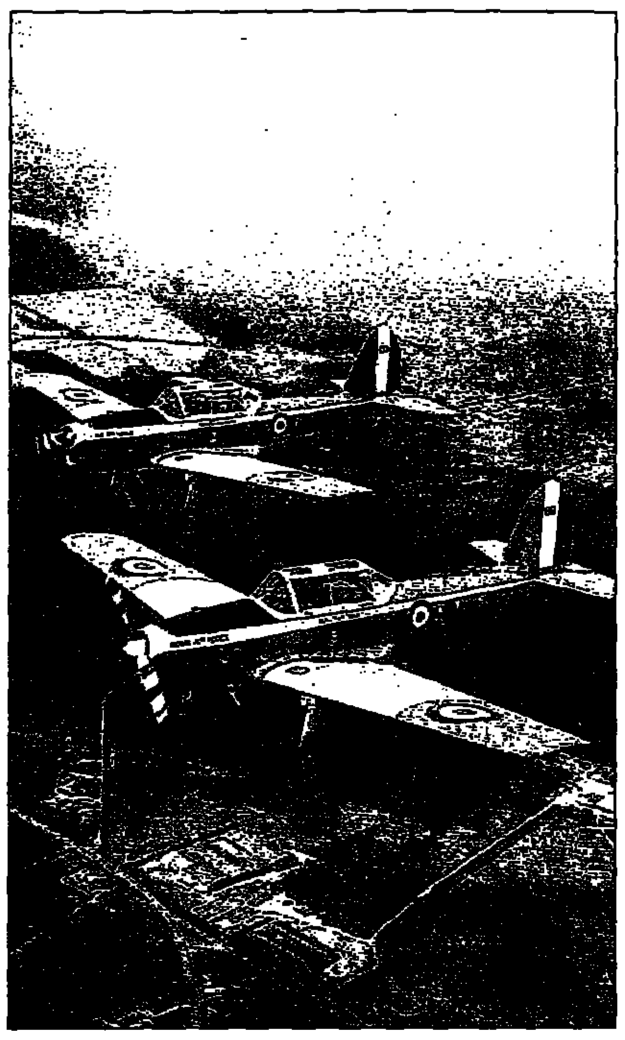
Squadron Leader Cowan, who is currently attached to RAF Cranwell, the training establishment, said: "One of the unknowns for Westerners is flying in Russia. It was closed to us from 1918 until the Berlin Wall came down. The scale of the country — 5,000 miles across, with ten time zones — will be difficult to grasp."

From Moscow, the two modified de Havilland Chipmunks, bearing RAF markings, will head east, following the line of the Trans-Siberian railway, towards the Bering Strait, a distance of more than 4,000 miles. East of the Urals, the expeditionary flight will cross Siberia: a similar trip planned last year had to be abandoned because of forest fires there.

The Chipmunks have been equipped with satellite-linked navigation equipment and all three men have been trained in survival skills because much of the land east of the Urals is swamp.

Squadron Leader Cowan hopes to fly the 145-horsepower Chipmunks up to 500 miles a day, cruising at about 100 knots at an altitude of 5,000ft. The round trip will be about 14,000 miles with 45 stops and has been divided into four sections: European, Russian, North American and North Atlantic. The trip is costing about £75,000, which is being met by sponsors including British Aerospace, British Telecom and GEC.

The Times will follow the progress of Exercise Northern Venture in further reports.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Stars raise cash for soccer fight

More than £500,000 is expected to have been raised from a pop concert held on Saturday to fund legal action on behalf of the 96 people crushed to death at Hillsborough football ground. Entertainers who waived their fees before an audience of 34,000 at Liverpool's Anfield ground included the Manic Street Preachers and the comedian Frank Skinner. Victims' families are campaigning for fresh inquests. They blame police error for the 1989 disaster.

Death in fire

A woman died after a fire swept through her home in Tamworth, Staffordshire. All four daughters of Deborah Simons, 39, who was divorced, were out at the time. Firefighters pulled her out of a bedroom and tried to resuscitate her but she was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

'Spy' inquest

An inquest opens today into the deaths in 1992 in California of Ian Spiro, who said that he worked for the intelligence services, and his family. Evidence about the deaths of Mr Spiro, 46, and his wife and three children will be disclosed to the West Cumbria Coroner at Whitehaven.

Killer recaptured

A murderer who escaped from Wellingborough jail, in Northamptonshire, last month was recaptured as he returned to the area where he killed his grandmother in 1984. Frank Winson-Smith was stopped in St Albans after a chase involving police cars and a helicopter.

Cheese with love

A Hebridean cheese, which was banned in Italy in the late 1960s because it was said to be have aphrodisiac qualities, is to be produced again. The creamery on Islay, which was closed last year, is to be reopened in July or August and will once more make Dunlop cheese.

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مكتز من الاجل

UN sharpens its axe in shake-up for 21st century

The biggest fiefdoms of the United Nations are under threat from a move to merge its scattered agencies, **James Bone** writes from New York

THE United Nations is preparing a radical restructuring of its humanitarian and development functions as part of a sweeping reform plan intended to ready the organisation for the next century.

Officials say that plans are being made to consolidate disparate UN agencies and departments in a move that threatens some of largest fiefdoms of the organisation's system. The UN Development Programme, the UN Fund for Population Activities, the UN Children's Fund and the three economic departments of the UN Secretariat are to be brought together in what has been tentatively titled the Development Operations Group or "Dog".

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs at UN headquarters in New York, which was created at Britain's insistence after the exodus of the Iraqi Kurds and the floods in Bangladesh in 1991, will be wrapped into the Geneva-based UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General, is under pressure to revamp the organisation to win back the wholehearted support of the United States, which owes more than $1 billion (£620 million) in dues to the world body.

The UN chief has promised to unveil his blueprint for reform in July and has appointed Maurice Strong, a Canadian businessman and UN expert, to prepare the report. The first details of the planned restructuring began to seep out at UN headquarters, as agency heads and other senior officials gathered in New York last week to discuss the changes.

Questions still remain, however, about the place of the World Food Programme, whose work is three quarters humanitarian relief and one quarter development. Also uncertain is how the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation will fit into the new structure. The Departments of Political Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations at UN headquarters are expected to remain separate, although they will work more closely together. The cumbersome Department of Public Information has already been renamed the Office for Communications and Media Services and a committee set up to reorient its work.

Mr Annan has pledged to cut 1,000 posts by attrition from the 10,000-strong bureaucracy of the UN Secretariat by the end of the century, saving tens of millions of dollars a year. But there is growing concern about the ageing of the UN staff, which has been caused by a long-running hiring freeze. The average age of the permanent UN staff is now 48 and about half are due to retire over the next ten years. Only 5 per cent of staff in the UN Secretariat are under 35.

Germany, meanwhile, is pushing for the creation of a new World Environment Organisation and is offering office space in Bonn which is to be vacated when the German Government moves to Berlin. The proposed body would take over from the troubled UN Environment Programme, which is based in Nairobi, and the Commission for Sustainable Development created after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, is expected to make his country's pitch for the new organisation at an environmental summit scheduled to take place at UN headquarters at the end of next month.

Rescuers in Iran race to reach areas hit by quake

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AN INTERNATIONAL relief operation was gathering momentum last night to help Iran to cope with the aftermath of an earthquake that devastated a remote, mountainous area in the east of the country, killing at least 2,400 people and injuring thousands more.

Aid workers expected the toll to rise when rescue workers reached areas cut off by landslides and piles of rubble. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies appealed in Geneva for about £5 million to assist 60,000 survivors for the next four months in the area bordering Afghanistan.

Iranian television showed mass destruction in the stricken zone, with dazed children and weeping infants wandering aimlessly through shattered streets lined with bodies covered in sheets. Some of the victims were crushed to death, others buried alive under the rubble of mudbrick houses. Villagers tore at the rubble with spades and even with bare hands to free trapped victims.

Hospital wards overflowed with victims, with doctors treating many in corridors. Most of the victims were women and children who were either at home or in school when the earthquake, measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale, struck on Saturday shortly after midday, a time when many men were out working in the fields.

Despite the impressive efforts of its own experienced disaster relief teams, Tehran lost little time in brushing aside its political differences with the West to appeal for help when the scale of the tragedy made clear it could not cope alone.

Two previous quakes this year had already depleted emergency resources. France was the first to help, dispatching a plane loaded with emergency supplies. Washington was expected to offer aid through international organisations. Germany, ignoring a recent diplomatic row with Tehran over accusations that the Iranian leadership ordered the murder of dissidents in Berlin, said it was prepared to send emergency aid.

Kuwait made a similar announcement and the Saudi-based Organisation of the Islamic Conference appealed to its 52 member states to extend all forms of urgent humanitarian assistance.

A British humanitarian organisation, International Rescue Corps, was last night refused visas by the Iranian Embassy in London to visit the quake site.

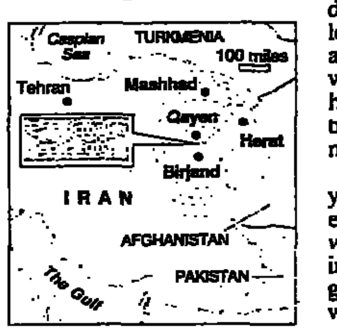
Hamid Reza Ghaffarzadeh, a UN Development Programme official who played a similar role in last year's earthquake in Iran, left his office in Tehran to link up with staff from the World Food Programme and UN High Commissioner for Refugees based in Mashhad before travelling onward.

"The area is completely cut off," said Iftikar Ali, a UN spokesman in Tehran. "The communications are down. No one has been able to contact us. There is a great distance to be covered. The flights are only up to Mashhad and there is a seven-hour trip beyond that."

Tens of thousands were left homeless by the quake, whose impact centred on an arid, rural area around the town of Qayen in Khorasan province, 90 miles west of the Afghan border. The Iranian Red Crescent said about 200 villages had been severely damaged or flattened across a 60-mile swath of territory between the towns of Qayen and Birjand, with 10,000 homes destroyed. Water supplies and power lines were also cut.

Qayen's Governor said his region needed doctors, blood, ambulances, food, heavy earth-moving equipment and devices to locate possible survivors.

☐ **Kabul:** The quake toppled a hospital wall in the western Afghan city of Herat, crushing five people to death. *(Reuter)*



REUTER

Emergency relief teams search wreckage yesterday in an Iranian village flattened by Saturday's earthquake

Frantic villagers battle to save lives

FROM STEVEN SWINDELLS IN QAYEN, IRAN

THE wailing and sobbing of grieving relatives echoed through several Iranian villages yesterday as they watched the mangled bodies of family members being pulled from the rubble caused by the country's huge earthquake.

The villagers were still dazed a day after the quake, which measured 7.1 on the Richter scale, hit eastern Iran. During a six-hour tour of this area close to Afghanistan, I did not see any survivors brought out from the rubble in three villages where cranes were lifting heavy debris.

"I have lost my daughter," screamed one woman in her fifties, raising her arms in despair as she roamed the dusty, rubble-strewn streets of Hadjiabad. Her daughter had been engaged to be married, relatives said.

In the nearby village of Abiz, a man in his late forties stood next to the bodies of his sons, aged four and eight, wrapped in shrouds with only their battered faces showing. The bodies were laid on what used to be the front door of their home. "I was away from the house working. My children were alone," he cried.

A despondent seven-year-old boy watched as relatives took his mother's body from their flattened home. A rescue worker, trying to comfort him, gave him biscuits. The boy was too stunned to react. "There aren't enough women left to clean the dead women," said one cleric, referring to the Islamic rite that precedes the burial ceremony. He said women from nearby areas were being brought in to perform the ritual.

Hossein Maldar, 20, stood atop his flattened brick house in Esbidan, 30 miles southeast of Qayen, crying over the loss of his 10-year-old sister and 16-year-old brother. His clothes were covered in dust.

People in Qayen said about 100 houses and other buildings were damaged in the town, but there were no signs of major damage. *(Reuter)*

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Gold from Holocaust victims 'laundered right up to the closing stages of war'

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Himmler, head of the SS, dealt directly with the secret numbered account

Swiss bank official had direct contact with Himmler's office

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

THE SS maintained a secret numbered account in a leading Swiss bank to launder money obtained from gold and jewellery plundered from concentration camp victims, and even received credit facilities, a Swiss newspaper reported yesterday.

The *SonntagsZeitung* said former East German documents held in the German Federal Archive showed that Crédit Suisse, now Switzerland's second largest bank, dealt directly with the SS through two parallel operations. The archives show that some transactions took place in the final stages of the Second World War, when the role of Hitler's elite unit in carrying out the genocide of millions of Jews, Gypsies and opponents was more widely known. It also claimed that the bank knew who it was dealing with.

In one operation, Deutsche Wirtschaftsbetrieb (DWB), a front company set up by the SS, received credit facilities from Crédit Suisse. DWB organised the revaluation of the belongings of Holocaust victims, including gold teeth and other valuables, through the German central bank. One document shows that DWB received a payment of SwFr80,000 from Crédit Suisse to its account at the Deutsche Bank in Berlin on February 14, 1945, not long before the end of the war. The payment was listed as the reimbursement of a cash advance account.

The newspaper also revealed that the SS held a secret account at Crédit Suisse, identified by a number, 54 941. Power of attorney was held by Leo Volk, a senior SS officer who handled financial affairs in Hitler's elite unit.

The *SonntagsZeitung* named a bank employee who sometimes had direct contact with the office of Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS, to deal with the secret account.

When the Allies sought to freeze Nazi assets, the SS tried to conceal the ownership of the account in 1945 by transferring the power of attorney to Alfred Kurzmeyer, a director of Deutsche Bank who also held a Swiss passport. He is known to have made frequent trips to Switzerland during the Second World War.

Crédit Suisse was unavailable for comment last night. But in a first reaction to *SonntagsZeitung*, the bank said the affair was regrettable and it would add the new evidence to internal investigations. Swiss politicians reacted with shock to the news, which establishes that a Swiss bank knowingly dealt with Nazi commanders rather than merely with individuals subsequently linked to the SS. In February, Crédit Suisse paid about SwFr33 million (£13.5 million) to a humanitarian fund to compensate Holocaust victims. The head of the fund gave a warning this weekend that first payments, due this summer, were likely to be delayed because of disagreements over the management board.

The newspaper's report puts further pressure on Swiss bankers, who have been obliged since last year to search through their accounts for millions of dollars of unclaimed assets belonging to Holocaust victims or their heirs, alleged to be hidden since the war.

So far, most of the evidence of financial dealings with the Nazis have been based on Allied intelligence reports held in American archives or on Swiss material. But the latest revelations give an indication of how much more evidence may be provided by the archives of other European countries, including Germany, which have not received the same close scrutiny.

A preliminary report by the United States Government on the Nazi gold transactions last week underlined the way that the Swiss National Bank and other neutral countries bought bullion from the Germans during the Second World War. The Eizenstat report accused them of helping to finance Nazi Germany's war effort and apparently prolonging the length of the war. But it contained few references to the role of private banks.

Pretoria launches attack on wave of 'Afro-pessimism'

South Africa is seeking to boost the morale of its white community, writes **R.W. Johnson** from Johannesburg

THE South African Government has brought out a pamphlet reviewing the Government's achievements at mid-term — six months late.

Questions have been raised about the use of public money to print and distribute the flagrantly self-praising pamphlet. The document is part of a government strategy to deal with "Afro-pessimism", a mood which operates partly both abroad and among South Africa's whites.

In the eyes of Afro-pessimists, the whole Continent is doomed to an unending cycle of corruption, authoritarianism, famine and war. South Africa's African National Congress-led Government has run hard into this mood as it struggles to encourage its own business community and international investors. Without their confidence, it cannot hope to secure the economic growth it needs to overcome the mountainous unemployment which lies at the root of most of the country's problems. But more fundamentally still, South Africa is now feeling, and asserting, its continental leadership.

This position is no longer really contested: the other large African countries — Sudan, Algeria, Zaire and Nigeria — are all at war or in chaos and none can begin to compete either with South Africa's economic strength or the positive international image President Mandela has given his country.

As continental leaders, South Africa's elite sees Afro-pessimism and the assumptions that surround it as an affront to their self-respect and virtually a suggestion that things would have been better if the continent had stayed under white-minority rule. They want to assert that Africans can govern themselves democratically and well, that they are not innately backward or violent, and that their economies can grow.

This is why Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, has been giving speeches in America in which he talks of "an African Renaissance" and it is also the reason why he has worked so closely with the United States in trying to bring a solution to the problems of Zaire. It is not just that Mr Mbeki wants to show Washington that South Africa can be a reliable ally, but he also fears that, should Zaire explode into further and chaos, it would confirm Afro-pessimists in their views, making all that South Africa wants to achieve more difficult.

There is, however, a problem. Crime remains high and in recent weeks, despite official attempts to show that crime is falling, public morale about the problem has sunk to new depths, particularly in Johannesburg. Much of the crime is violent and continues to produce waves of white emigrants either to other parts of the country or abroad.

It is difficult to see how the Government can maintain local investment confidence unless it gets on top of the crime wave. The confidence of the white community counts, not only because foreign businessmen tend to mix with them, but also because most foreigners will not invest if the locals are reluctant to do so.

Zaire rebels resume march on Kinshasa

FROM REUTER IN LUBUMBASHI

REBELS in Zaire yesterday said they had abandoned a pledge to South Africa's President Mandela and resumed their advance towards the capital, Kinshasa.

Bizima Karaha, the rebel "Foreign Minister", also told a news conference in Lubumbashi that the rebels would storm Kinshasa if Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo accepted his election as Speaker of the Zaire parliament.

The archbishop was appointed on Saturday in the hope that he could mediate a peace deal between President Mobutu and the rebels.

Mr Karaha said that, over the past few days, Zairean troops backed by the Angolan rebel group, Unita, and former Rwandan troops had attacked rebel positions near the town of Kenge, 125 miles east of Kinshasa, but had been driven back.

"Mobutu has used the talks to reinforce his troops, bring in Unita elements, former Rwandan troops, and consolidate his position in Kinshasa," he said.

"Our response to this is that we are abandoning our pledge and we are now advancing and will continue to advance. We shall now talk and fight, and fight and talk."

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هكذا من الاصل

Christians flock to hear Pope call for Lebanon's liberty

BY NICHOLAS BLANDFORD IN BEIRUT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

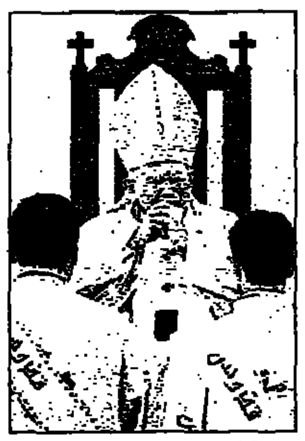
THE POPE yesterday celebrated Mass in Beirut before thousands of Lebanon's Christians. He later called for the country's "total independence, complete sovereignty and unambiguous freedom", although he stopped short of saying that Syrian and Israeli forces should withdraw.

More than 300,000 Christians — *about 10 per cent of the* country's population — attended the outdoor seafront service, waving the yellow-and-white flags of the Vatican in the sweltering mid-morning heat.

It was the Pope's first visit to the Middle East and his theme from arriving at Beirut airport on Saturday was reconciliation between the Christian and Muslim communities.

"*Lebanon* ... has *shown* that people can respect the rights of every individual to religious freedom; that all are united in love for this homeland." he said. He arrived to take the Mass from the papal embassy in the mountain village of Harisa, 20 miles north of Beirut. His "Popemobile" was strewn with rose petals and rice from the 100,000 Christians lining the route.

On Saturday night, the Pope addressed thousands of Lebanon's young people in a ceremony at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Harisa that had all the raucous atmosphere of a football match.



The Pope prays with two Lebanese priests

Frequently interrupted by the chanting and singing of *El-baba*, as he is known in Lebanon, he told the gathering to bridge the communal divide. "*You are the treasure of* Lebanon ... destroy the barricades, build new bridges of communication among each other," he urged.

The arrival of the Pope had been eagerly anticipated by the Christians of Lebanon, the most important Christian community in the region, who hoped *his visit would* bolster their waning influence.

Although the Pope was welcomed by all religious communities, his visit has emphasised the country's sectarian tension. The Christian community traditionally dominated Lebanese politics, but the 1975-1990 civil war eroded *their power* base, and today the Christians consider themselves increasingly marginalised *from the political arena.*

With most of the Christian hierarchy now in self-imposed exile in Paris, leadership has fallen to the Maronite Patriarch, Cardinal Nasrallah Butros Sfeir, the spiritual leader of the *Maronites, Lebanon's* largest Christian sect.

Cardinal Sfeir has frequently *accused the Government of* the Sunni Muslim Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri, of sectarian bias and has consistently attacked the Syrian presence in Lebanon. Neighbouring Syria has 35,000 troops in the country and *Damascus* retains a virtual hegemony over the Lebanese Government.

Christian complaints have highlighted the plight of the former leader of the Christian Lebanese forces militia, Samir Geagea, who is serving two life sentences in prison. The Christian opposition has objected *to Mr* Geagea's *incarceration*, noting that he was the only warlord from the 16-year conflict to have been put on trial.

Before his trip, the Pope was inundated with appeals from Mr Geagea's supporters to recognise his predicament and demand the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon. But the Pope limited his comments to a 200-page document that he wrote on Lebanon's future, in which he called for Lebanon's full independence without referring by name to Syria or Israel, which occupies the country's south.

SALEH RIFAI / AP

About 300,000 people attend Mass in Beirut yesterday. The Pope urged reconciliation between Christians and *Muslims during* his visit

Day of mourning highlights split among Israelis

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SOMBRE weekend ceremonies to honour the 18,538 Israeli soldiers killed in the 49 years since the foundation of the state highlighted the growing divisions between secular and ultra-Orthodox Jews, many of whom do not serve in the armed forces.

The worst incident occurred in Jerusalem when ultra-Orthodox demonstrators hurled *stones at a policeman standing* to attention as air raid sirens wailed to mark the *beginning* of *Memorial* Day during which tens of thousands of Israelis visit military graves. It is customary for the country to come to a complete halt as the sirens sound. The policeman, who was injured, was one of a large squad on duty in Jerusalem's Bar-Ilan Street, which the ultra-Orthodox or Haredic Jews want closed during the sabbath. The protesters called the mourning policemen "Nazis" and taunted them with the cry: "Next Memorial Day they will *mourn you as* well".

In an interview to mark Memorial Day, Amonon Shahak, the Chief of Staff, underlined the splits dividing Israeli society by claiming that these caused him more concern than the growing arsenal of Syrian long-range missiles in the process of being equipped with VX nerve gas.

Writing in *The Jerusalem Post*, Yosef Lapid, a leading journalist and Holocaust survivor, was scathing about the increasing influence of the *ultra-Orthodox* Jews who since last year's election have been working behind the scenes to impose their narrow views on many aspects of Israeli life.

"Israeli society is disappearing into the black hole of Haredism [ultra-Orthodoxy]. Tens of thousands of youngsters are squeezed into Yeshivot [seminaries run by the ultra-Orthodox], evading IDF [Israeli Defence Force] service, avoiding productive work and study that is of any benefit to a modern country."

Mr Lapid added that fewer and fewer non-religious Jews "*who do army service and* work for a living are supporting more and more idlers who are amassing political power."

Saddam 'spies' face deportation from US

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A GROUP of Iraqis who worked with the CIA to try to *overthrow President Saddam* Hussein are in jail in California facing deportation, possibly back to Iraq, as double agents.

The embittered 25 men and one woman are accused by other refugees of working undercover for Saddam and of helped him to crush the *CIA-backed Opposition when* his forces stormed into Kurdish sanctuaries in northern Iraq last August. The speed of Saddam's success raised strong suspicions that his enemies had been heavily penetrated by his spies.

Up to 6,000 Iraqi refugees who fled from the disaster *have been promised political* asylum by United States authorities after a journey to Turkey and then to Guam, an American island in the Pacific, before reaching the mainland. Those in custody have been identified as national security risks, based on interviews with FBI agents, *according to the Justice* Department in Washington. Their cases will now be heard by an immigration judge.

All deny being agents for Saddam and say they are victims of jealousies between two opposition groups.

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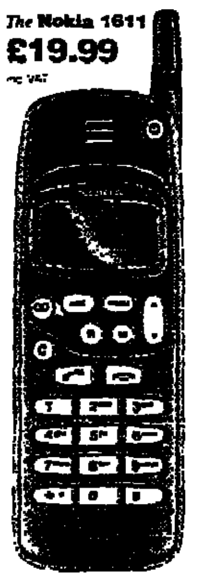

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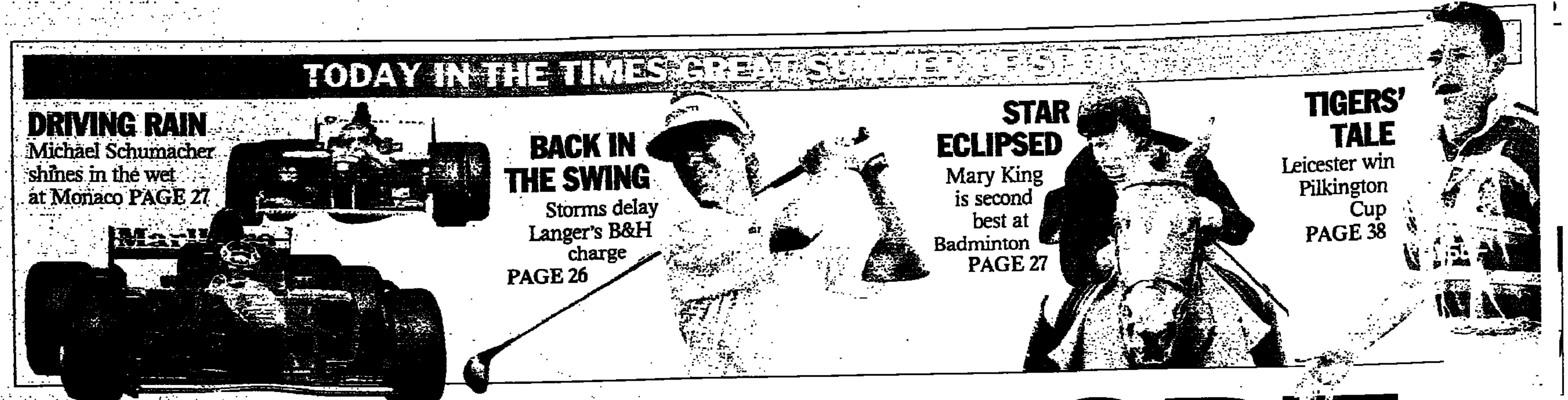
TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT



DRIVING RAIN
Michael Schumacher shines in the wet at Monaco PAGE 27

BACK IN THE SWING
Storms delay Langer's B&H charge
PAGE 26

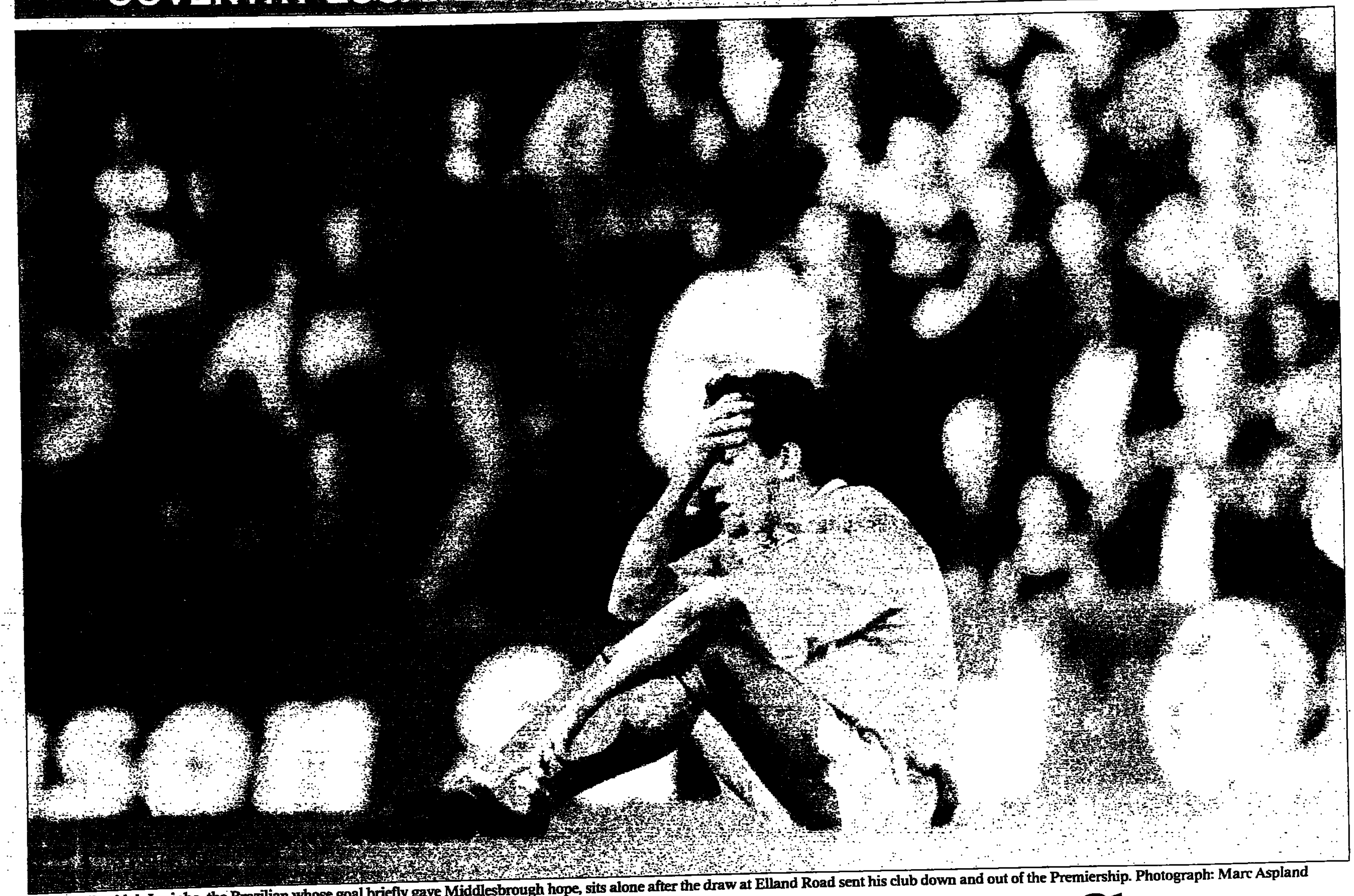
STAR ECLIPSED
Mary King is second best at Badminton
PAGE 27

TIGERS' TALE
Leicester win Pilkington Cup
PAGE 38

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MAY 12 1997

COVENTRY ESCAPE AGAIN ON [illegible]



Fallen idol: Juninho, the Brazilian whose goal briefly gave Middlesbrough hope, sits alone after the draw at Elland Road sent his club down and out of the Premiership. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Middlesbrough down in flames

Leeds United........................1
Middlesbrough......................1

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN ROBSON'S bold attempt to transplant the exotic skills of Brazil and Italy to Teesside ended in failure and the utter despair of relegation on the barren land of Elland Road yesterday. A series of wildly expensive signings once acclaimed as the work of a visionary now stand condemned as an act of grand footballing folly.

Sent down, in the end, by the three points the Premier League docked them when they failed to fulfil their fixture against Blackburn Rovers on December 21, Middlesbrough failed to secure the win they needed.

While goals from Dion Dublin and Paul Williams at White Hart Lane saved Coventry City for the tenth time on the final day and sent down Sunderland, who lost 1-0 at Wimbledon, Middlesbrough could only manage a deflected shot from Juninho to counter Brian Deane's headed second-half goal. It was not enough. It was a bleak day for the North East and the revival of football in the region.

The FA Cup Final against Chelsea at Wembley next Saturday will provide a measure of consolation, although their players will have to be dragged up off the floor. But their relegation may rob the Premiership of Juninho, who has illuminated this season like a shooting star.

It is likely the team, a blend of superstars and journeymen that has rarely gelled, will now disintegrate. Robson even backtracked a little last night from his earlier insistence that his stars would stay. "I will have to sit down with my first-team players and get their thoughts on the position of the club now," he said.

Emerson, who caused so much agonising earlier in the season with his trysts to Brazil, was substituted midway through the second half yesterday and stalked off straight down the tunnel, a symptom of everything that was wrong with the club.

Ravanelli, who scored 31 goals amid the mediocrity but was criticised by team-mates for returning to Italy for treatment on his strained back, was not fit. At the end, Juninho fell to the floor and would not be comforted.

The only vestige of hope now for them may be a High Court appeal against the Premier League's three-point penalty. "At the end of the day," Steve Gibson, the Middlesbrough chairman, said, "we have been relegated because of a decision by grey men in grey suits behind closed doors. Whether we will take action is for me to know. I will do what is best for the club."

A female streaker had lightened the tension a little just before the kick-off. She brought a smile to the face of Juninho but it did not last.

He gave his all, as usual, but so desperate has he become, so apparently lacking in confidence in the rest of his team-mates, that he began by trying to beat Leeds United on his own.

Leeds, who had not conceded a goal at home since Boxing Day, forged the best early chance when Lilley wrestled aside Blackmore on the edge of the Middlesbrough area. His shot cannoned up off the body of Roberts and left him, fleetingly, with an open goal but his weak shot was cleared.

At the other end, Stamp had a fierce shot tipped over the bar by Martyn and then Juninho produced the game's best piece of skill by controlling an awkward ball from Pearson on the half-way line and slipping it past Halle.

Two minutes before the interval, Juninho played another perfectly weighted pass to Stamp who needed to provide only the simplest of touches to free Beck, unmarked again, in the centre. Once more, the ball failed to reach the Danish forward. In the half's dying seconds, though, Middlesbrough escaped. Mustoe's defensive header fell to Bowyer 15 yards out. He sliced his volley wide.

Nine minutes after half-time, Hignett, who had been paralysed by nerves, paid for the poverty of his performance when he was replaced by Kinder. Almost immediately, Juninho forged another chance for Middlesbrough when he slipped a through-ball between Leeds's two central defenders but Beck's left-foot toe-poke was saved by Martyn at the second attempt.

Kinder brought a new urgency to Middlesbrough's left flank and in the 69th minute, Robson took Emerson off, prompting his show of petulance and delighted cries of "Emerson's going home".

Four minutes after that, as Middlesbrough's Premiership life ebbed away, Rush nearly sealed their fate when he pounced on Deane's nod back and fired his shot in low at Roberts. The goalkeeper saved with his legs and when the ball was played back in, Lilley's tap-in was ruled offside.

There was, though, to be no reprieve for Middlesbrough. Fourteen minutes from the end, Wallace, a substitute for Rush, curled a cross in from the right which was met by Deane's head and dispatched firmly beyond Roberts.

Some Middlesbrough heads went down, but not Juninho's. Three minutes later, he cut in from the left and his right-foot shot was deflected off Bowyer and beyond Martyn. Middlesbrough mounted a furious late assault but the goal they needed would not come.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle, D Wetherall, G Kelly, A Dorigo — I Rush, L Bowyer, L Radebe, L Sharpe — B Deane, D Lilley

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-1-1): B Roberts — C Fleming, N Pearson, G Festa, C Blackmore — C Hignett (sub V Kinder, 54min), P Stamp, R Mustoe, Emerson — Juninho — M Beck.

Referee: A Wilkie

BOTTOM OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	38	10	11	17	50	56	41
Coventry	38	9	14	15	38	54	41
Sunderland	38	10	10	18	35	53	40
† Middlesbro	38	10	12	16	51	60	39
Nottm Forest	38	6	16	16	31	59	34

Middlesbrough deducted three points

United crowned, page 28
Coventry escape again, page 29
Sunderland relegated, page 29
Barcelona win, page 31

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مكان الاجل

Balding keeps a tight rein on Badminton

MATTHEW BOND

◆

TV ACTION REPLAY

The fact that three-day eventing is not the television sport it once was is not the BBC's fault, as it set out to show on Saturday by *wheeling out the sort of treatment that even the mainest of mainstream sports would aspire to* — the best part of an hour on *Grandstand*, followed by more than two hours of live, uninterrupted coverage on BBC2 of the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials. And not a princess or dashing consort in sight ... well, not on horseback, anyway.

From a television point of view, the cross-country stage of a three-day event is a sporting oddity. On the one hand it combines the genuine excitement of watching rider *and horse in nostril-flaring* close-up with slapstick comedy ("Hang on, Katie, hang on — oh, it's another ducking"). On the other, these thrills and spills have precious little bearing on the overall outcome. That is dictated by the dressage, which the BBC could not be bothered to show and by the showjumping yesterday that many of us — no doubt — could not be bothered to watch. For those who missed it, Ian Stark and Stanwick Ghost knocked down five fences including the first, a feat of scoreboard vandalism that reduced Michael Tucker, the BBC's main commentator, to total silence.

But despite the proven importance of each gaudily-painted showjumping pole, it is the cross country that captures the imagination ... and *the television audiences*. As the afternoon progressed and the weather moved from foul to fair, three things impressed. The first two were technical — some excellent overhead camera work from a circling helicopter or airship, which gave a real idea of the lay-out of the course, and some ingenious parallel pictures of horses at full gallop taken from a camera mounted on some sort of swift but silent vehicle.

The third success was human, Clare Balding. The BBC *has tried various ways of* presenting three-day eventing in recent years and normally what results is either too giggly or too posh. Balding was neither — she has an excellent microphone voice, knows her horses and knew the course well enough to stand in as commentator while her guests watched the normally painful replays. She coaxed mild controversy from Mark Phillips, who thought it was the easiest course for some years. She cajoled humour *from an exhausted* Pippa Funnell: "I think I should definitely give up smoking for next year." And she coped admirably with the unexpected, when Stark inexplicably left her interviewing a tree with 90 seconds to go.

In the commentary box, Tucker and his co-commentators, Lorna Clarke and Lucinda Green, were demonstrating a depth of knowledge that at times bordered on the comical, Clarke and Green competing to show who knew more about a particular Swedish rider. "She's a pilot." "She used to be an acrobatic skier." She's the daughter of a priest. Eventually, Green moved reluctantly on ... to tell us about a horse bred by Eddie Macken's wife's mother.

Making sure that the whole thing didn't become off-*puttingly incestuous* were Johnnie Watherston and Wendy Sheppard, the producers, who, as well as ensuring that the camera-work remained impressive throughout, also kept editorial input under rewardingly tight control. If the commentary team had built up a particular rider particularly well or simply spotted someone showing a bit of flair, they made absolutely certain that Balding grabbed a few words with whoever it was afterwards — even if she did have to barge into the weighing-in tent to get them.

Only one thing defeated their efforts, the complete inability of the otherwise enjoyable Tucker to master the electronic time-keeping. "He's ten seconds down ... come on Ian ... in fact he's up, not down — we're getting *overexcited*." At last, a soulmate for Murray Walker.

GOLF

Langer clings to his advantage in twilight climax

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

TIM OCKENDEN

Langer, buffeted by wind and rain, refused to be distracted by conditions

WEATHER delays interrupted play for more than two hours *in the final round* of the Benson and Hedges International Open at The Oxford*shire yesterday. There was a* hold-up of 40 minutes soon after play started and then a longer one in the late afternoon when an electrical storm arrived in the area.

Many golfers would have been adversely affected by the disruptions, but not Bernhard Langer as he strove to win his second event in eight days. The worse the weather, the more difficult the conditions, the better he played. *He* is indomitable.

After taking the Italian *Open with a superb last round* of 64 eight days ago, Langer moved into a two-stroke lead *over Lee Westwood with seven* holes remaining.

At this stage, Langer was 11 under par. Westwood was one stroke ahead of Ian Woosnam and Padraig Harrington and Eduardo Romero were two shots further back.

It is hard to describe the weather conditions. One minute the sun shone and the course was playable. The next moment, huge menacing clouds would be borne in on the strong south-westerly winds. Any semblance of *brightness would disappear* from the sky and soon rain would be falling in sheets.

How quickly the weather changed was demonstrated in the ten minutes it took Ian Woosnam and Eduardo Romero to complete the 9th hole and reach the 10th tee. As they walked up to the 9th green the *sky above the Chilterns to* their left, looked light. The moment they walked off the green they were heading towards clouds that were darker than a raven's wing. Sure enough, just as Romero waited to drive, a siren went, play was halted and they sought refuge in a tent by the side of the tee.

Under the circumstances the 71 by Emanuele Canonica, the first man out, represented a miraculous score. Canonica eagled the 1st when, after an *enormous, wind-assisted* drive had travelled 380 yards, he sank his second shot, a 50-*yard pitch with a sand-wedge.*

A few minutes later players were hauled in off the course because of the danger of lightning.

Canonica, an Italian, *dropped only two strokes* all day. But perhaps he is used to leaning into the wind. After all, he comes from Pisa.

No two players demonstrated such contrasting fortunes as Andrew Oldcorn and Colin Montgomerie. Both are thought to be Scottish. Montgomerie is, though he chooses to live in Surrey. Oldcorn is not, though he lives in Edinburgh, has a Scottish accent and supports Hearts. Born in Bolton, he won the English amateur champion*ship in 1982*.

Oldcorn's round of 71 was was ten strokes better than *Montgomerie's 81 and meant* he finished on 289, one over par, nine strokes ahead of Montgomerie. Oldcorn had no difficulty on the 2nd, a par three of 165 yards. Montgomerie found the green but then took five putts.

Once Severiano Ballesteros was asked how he had taken four putts and he replied: "I missed a two-footer for my third."

When Montgomerie was asked if it was true that he had taken five putts there was a *risk of an explosion. In truth*, he is making big strides in controlling his temper and he kept a sufficient grip of himself to explain that he held his putter lightly and thus found it *less easy to putt well in a wind.*

"I have never won in a wind," Montgomerie said. It *was pointed out that he had* nearly won the 1992 US Open at Pebble Beach when the breeze was certainly more than a zephyr. Montgomerie is sharper than a tack. There is *never any point in trying to* outsmart him. "That was because I hit my irons so close," *he replied*. "I didn't really have to putt that day."

Montgomerie must be dreading the arrival of this event each year. Last season he finished with an 84. "I *don't know what I'll do next* year," he said. "I am not looking forward to coming back here. *It is so exposed*. You could play at Wentworth and it would be little more than a breeze, but here it's a gale."

DETAILS

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

EARLY LEADING FINAL SCORES: 289: A Oldcorn 75, 69, 74, 71; M Mouland 74, 67, 74, 74 **291:** P Hedblom (Swe) 71, 73, 73, 74; I Pyman 72, 69, 75, 75; M A Jimenez (Sp) 72, 69, 75, 75; S Luna (Sp) 70, 70, 75, 76; C Suneson (Sp) 70, 71, 74, 76 **292:** P Lawrie 70, 73, 75, 74; S Ballesteros (Sp) 72, 69, 76, 75; S Strüver (Ger) 73, 70, 74, 75; P Mitchell 69, 71, 76, 76 **293:** S Ames (Trin) 74, 70, 77, 72; S Webster 72, 72, 76, 73; R Green (Aus) 75, 69, 74, 75; D Cooper 71, 73, 73, 76; S Field 75, 69, 73, 76 **294:** E Canonica (It) 73, 71, 79, 71; G Brand Jr 75, 69, 73, 77; G Orr 70, 74, 73, 77 **295:** O Karlsson (Swe) 75, 67, 80, 73; P Eales 71, 71, 77, 76; A Collart 69, 75, 75, 76; P Quirici (Switz) 71, 71, 75, 78; D Tapping 74, 69, 74, 78; P Walton 73, 71, 72, 79 **296:** S Torrance 74, 70, 77, 75; R Davis (Aus) 73, 71, 76, 76; I Garbutt 74, 67, 77, 78; T Gogele (Ger) 76, 67, 75, 78; J Lomas 69, 72, 75, 80

RUGBY LEAGUE: INSPIRED SECOND-HALF BURST HALTS A TWO-YEAR UNBEATEN HOME RUN BY LANCASHIRE SIDE

Leeds end proud Salford record

LEEDS Rhinos brought to an end the two-year unbeaten *home league record* of Salford Reds with an inspired second-half performance that enabled them to consolidate third place in the Super League.

The teams were level at 14-14 in the 56th minute, but Leeds eventually won 33-20. They went ahead in the second *minute* when Blackmore's wild pass found Sterling, the wing, who went over in the corner. However, Salford responded quickly to take the lead with tries from Morley and Forber.

Sterling scored his second try from Harris's kick and Harris *then nipped over from* acting half back and converted his own try to give Leeds a 14-10 half-time lead.

Salford drew level through McAvoy, but Leeds then took full control with Hassan racing 75 yards after a smart scrum move. Holroyd added a dropped goal to make it 21-14 and Leeds then confirmed their superiority with further tries from Sheridan and Hassan, with a superb 90-yard effort.

Halifax Blue Sox staged a spectacular *finale* to overcome Warrington Wolves 42-30 after an exciting, 14-try spec*tacular that was decided only* in the final eight minutes at Thrum Hall.

Warrington, still finding their feet under Daryl van de Velde, their new coach, opened the scoring on eight *minutes through Sculthorpe.*

Halifax gained the initiative with first-half tries from *Bouveng Chester and the first* of two from Tuilagi. Tea Kohe-Love replied for Warrington with a *try on 19 minutes*, followed by the first of two from Wingfield to make the half-time score 18-16 to Halifax.

In the second half, Pearson, of Halifax, and Shelford, of Warrington, were sent to the sin-bin after an exchange of blows before Wingfield scored his second try.

Michael Jackson turned the game in Halifax's favour with his first try on 52 minutes, following a thrilling 40-metre run. He added a second after 60 minutes, after a similar burst which fully justified his man-of-the-match award. Warrington fought back through Briers and Vagana, but Halifax sealed the game with late tries from Rowley and Tuilagi.

Castleford Tigers remain at *the foot of the Super League* after their tenth successive league defeat, against Paris Saint-Germain. Paris trailed 8-2 at the interval but second-half tries from Bergman and O'Donnell steered them to only their second league win of the season.

Eagles hit by fourth successive defeat

Sheffield Eagles 14
Oldham Bears 18

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE manner of their defeat would hardly have encouraged potential investors to *purchase a stake in Sheffield* Eagles's proposed public flotation.

Sheffield's fourth successive loss has dragged them into a scramble, involving four clubs, at the foot of the Stones Super League to avoid the supposed one relegation place. However, if Oldham Bears *can repeat the resolution* shown yesterday at the Don Valley Stadium, they could well start to climb away from the danger zone.

Results and tables 40

After losing to Halifax in the final minute of their last match, there was particular satisfaction for Oldham in only their second league victory. After Andy Goodway's departure as coach, Bob Lidner, who has arrived back at the club as football manager, has instilled a spirit that withstood a Sheffield fightback in the second half. His nails were cut to the quick by the finish, however.

Oldham's point-scoring was *confined to the first half*. They ran out to *Teddy Bear's Picnic*, and, suitably provoked, ex*ploited Sheffield's vulnerability* out wide twice in the opening six minutes. The Eagles' *defence slithered* in its vain pursuit of Abram, and was then caught out on the other flank by Hill, after a knock-on from the restart by Broadbent.

Apart from a try off a scrum by Stott, Sheffield appeared bereft of ideas going forward in the first period. Two further tries left them trailing 18-4 at the break, when slick handling produced a try for the dangerous Leuila. Jones, unmarked, then went over on the *left after Lord supplied the* scoring pass.

Instead of consolidating their advantage, Oldham suffered a bout of nerves and Garcia took advantage to race clear. Then, Broadbent was *feebly allowed* to twist out of a two-man embrace while Aston's one successful conver*sion brought Sheffield to with*in four points midway through the second half.

Oldham then *squandered* numerous chances to put the result beyond reasonable doubt. If Maloney, charging up the right, had bothered to raise his head, he would have seen Neal screaming for the ball on his inside. In a frantic finale, Atcheson gratefully got his hands on a chip by Wood before time finally ran out on the home side.

SCORERS: Sheffield: Tries: Stott, Garcia, Broadbent. Goal: Aston. Oldham: Tries: Abram, Hill, Leuila, Jones. Goal: Goodwin.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES: L Stott; W Taewa, N Pinkney, K Senior, J-M Garcia, R Doyle, M Aston, P Broadbent, J Lawless, S Edmed, D McAlister, P Carr, M Wood. Subs: W Morganson, R Eyres, A Thompson, D Mycoe.

OLDHAM BEARS: P Atcheson; A Leuila, H Hill, D Abram, D Jones, F Maloney, M Crompton, I Gildart, D Stephenson, B Goldspink, J Fairmalo, M Munro, L Goodwin. Subs: G Lord, P Davidson, M Neal, J Clarke.

Referee: R Connolly (Wigan)

☐ John Bentley, the British Isles wing, yesterday signed an extension to *his Halifax* contract which will keep him at Thrum Hall until 1999.

*Bentley, a dual internation*al, agreed another 12-month deal with the Blue Sox as compensation for *missing six* weeks of the season as he tours South Africa with the Lions.

Allen on song to steer Monarchs to victory

FOR *THE* second successive week the crowd at Stamford Bridge were treated to an anxious finish but yesterday it all ended happily, with the London Monarchs beating the *Scottish* Claymores 16-8 (Richard Wetherell writes). With just over a minute remaining, the Claymores, the defending World League champions, got the ball back, requiring a *touchdown* and a two-point conversion to draw level. Starting on their own 45-yard line they got as close as the Monarchs' six-yard line. Then, an incomplete pass and a *penalty* took them backwards before another Claymores penalty ended the game with five seconds remaining.

Clive Allen, the former England soccer striker, opened the scoring for London with the first field goal of his new career. He added another from 27 yards and a third goal in the final quarter. In stark contrast, the Claymores missed three long-range field goals.

Cambridge waltz home

BALLROOM DANCING: Cambridge won the Varsity match for the second year in succession, inflicting a convincing defeat on Oxford *over all four dances* — waltz, quick step, cha-cha and jive (Ruth Gledhill writes). In 24 years, Oxford have now won the Varsity match 16 times, compared to eight victories for Cambridge.

However, the Oxford B team fought back, easily defeating Cambridge over the four dances at the spacious Kelsey Kerridge Hall on Saturday.

Some observers put the defeat of the eight-couple Oxford A team down to a last-minute rule change, which rendered some of the leading Oxford dancers ineligible for the Varsity competition.

McCarron shares lead

GOLF: Scott McCarron coped with the twin handicaps of a *pulled hamstring and* a testing breeze to join David Duval in the lead after the third round of the BellSouth Atlanta Classic in Duluth, Georgia. McCarron produced seven birdies in a round of 66, six under par. Duval, the leader after two rounds, bogeyed the final hole for a 73, and he and McCarron stood at 11-under-par 205, two strokes ahead of their fellow American, David Toms. Bill Glasson was a further three shots back, along with Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, who finished with a double bogey at the 15th and a bogey at the 17th.

Somerset depart early

BOWLS: Somerset, the defending champions, waved goodbye to their hopes of retaining the Walker Cup when they made an undignified *preliminary-round exit from the* national women's double rink championship. Dorset overwhelmed the holders by an unprecedented margin of 23 *shots*, 45-22. In *another* upset, Warwickshire defeated Norfolk, after a tense finish, and by a single shot, 35-34.

Mason keeps her title

GYMNASTICS: Lisa Mason, of Huntingdon Gym Club, retained her title for a second successive year by beating Annika Reeder, of Basildon, into second place and Gemma Cuff, of Heathrow, into third at the British championships in Guildford on Saturday. Melissa Wilcox, of Bristol, won the junior championship and Katy Lennon, from Leatherhead and Dorking, the 12 and 13 years age group.

Boldon sprints in

ATHLETICS: Ato Boldon, of Trinidad, ran the fastest 100 metres of the year in winning a race in Modesto, California, in 9.89sec on Saturday. The time was the seventh-fastest of all time. The world record, set by Donovan Bailey, of Canada, at the Olympic Games last year, is 9.84sec. Boldon was the bronze medal-winner in the 100 and 200 metres in Atlanta.

Carmichael on target

SHOOTING: John Carmichael, of Worcestershire, yesterday won Lord Cottesloe's Cup, the top individual award at the English VIII Club meeting at Bisley where men and women fire at ranges up to 1,200 yards. Carmichael, twice a *target rifle team world championship gold medal-winner*, took the trophy with 399 out of 450, the lowest score in the event for many years because of the windy conditions.

China strike quickly

SWIMMING: China captured the first gold medal of the East Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea, yesterday when Zhu Yingwen won the women's 100 metres freestyle on the first day of competition. Zhu finished in a time of 56.72sec, followed by Guo Wei, also of China. Lee Bo-Eun, of South Korea, was third. China won 25 gold medals at the previous Games.

Hill installed at Palace

BASKETBALL: Crystal Palace, who were expected to announce the arrival of an experienced coach this week, have plumped instead for the virtually untried Graham Hill. At 29, Hill will become the second-youngest coach in the Budweiser League. Dan Lloyd and Mark Clark, the respective assistant coaches at London Towers and the Leopards, were expected to be the front-runners for the job.

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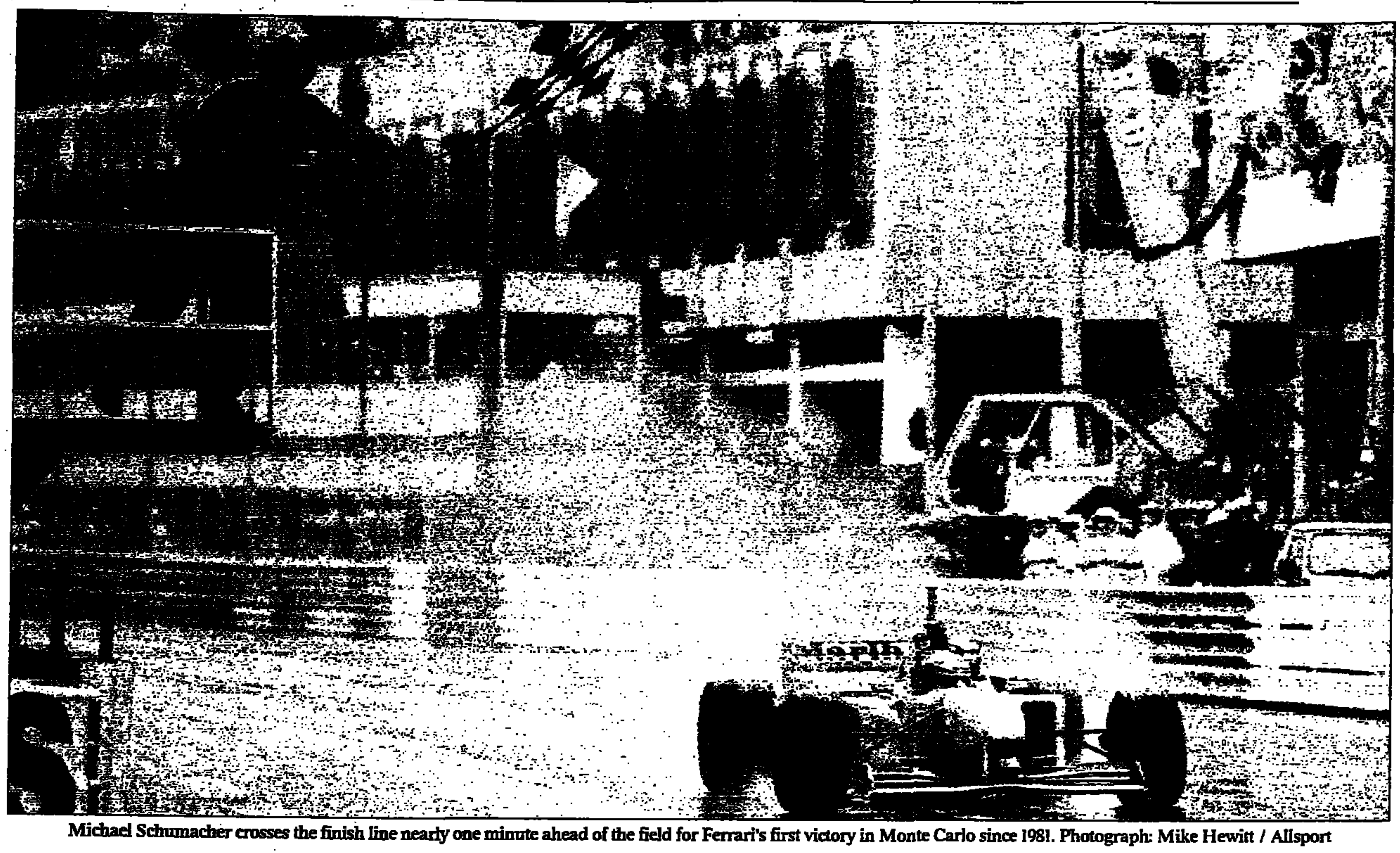
MOTOR RACING: FERRARI CELEBRATE MILESTONE WITH DECISIVE VICTORY IN MONACO GRAND PRIX



Michael Schumacher crosses the finish line nearly one minute ahead of the field for Ferrari's first victory in Monte Carlo since 1981. Photograph: Mike Hewitt / Allsport

Brilliant Schumacher reigns supreme

FROM ROB HUGHES
IN MONTE CARLO

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER, the German who has twice been world champion and will assuredly be so again, enjoyed Monte Carlo in the rain yesterday, aquaplaning to a victory which, even by his standards, demonstrated that he is the consummate Formula One driver of his era.

Schumacher chose, correctly, to race in the Ferrari spare car because it had been set up for "intermediate" conditions, rain and dry; he proved from the green light that his hunger to caress home his scarlet car — on the fiftieth anniversary of Enzo Ferrari introducing the dream machine to racing — has not diminished with the serenity that has come into his life after the recent birth of his first daughter, Gina Maria.

However, it was a day that Ferrari could enjoy even beyond the unquestioned skill of the man they pay £1 million per race. Eddie Irvine, who must now be called "Steady Eddie", has so quelled his volatile Ulster temperament that, for the third successive race, he finished on the podium, in third place. It means that Ferrari, on their precious anniversary, are omnipotent again, top of the drivers' championship with Schumacher, and top of the constructors' championship.

Separating the Ferrari drivers, beaming from Monaco to São Paulo, where he was born, Rubens Barrichello claimed second place, the first finish and the first points for the new Stewart Ford combination. Jackie Stewart said: "I have never been happier, not from a victory, not from a championship. I was never emotional about my racing, but Paul [his son] and I sat together throughout the race, and when Rubens crossed the line we both burst out crying. But for a certain Mr Schumacher, Ferrari would have been second today."

So, a remarkable day in the wet around Monaco's lampposts, narrow, twisting streets and opulent harbour. It had been wet before, indeed last year, when only three finished and Schumacher himself was embarrassed to go out at the first corner. This time, as the clouds gathered, the tension mounted. Moments before taking up his position on the grid, Schumacher mused on the decision whether to drive his own car or the spare.

"I was thinking that we had set up two solutions, one for dry and one in case it rained a little bit," he said. "I just decided in the last seconds, though with wet tyres I was concerned to see Heinz-Harald [Frentzen] on slicks. He could have been right, I could have been wrong . . . but once out there, it felt so bloody slow in the corners at Mirabeau, Loews and Portier that I was thinking I could *run* beside my car."

What is this, questions in the mind of the master driver? Questions indeed. "Can anyone tell me what happened to my brother?" he asked immediately afterwards. His younger sibling, Ralf, had bumped into a guardrail and his Jordan slid to a halt, rather like a taxi parking, in front of the Café de Paris at the devilish Casino Square.

Michael Schumacher was, by that time, 11 laps into the race. Damon Hill, the champion, losing his grip on the road and on nearly everything else, had already slithered out on lap two, which seems to be as far as the Arrows can take him. How very sad, and how honest of Irvine to admit that, starting from fifteenth position, just behind Hill, there had been a bunch of drivers bumping and boring. "I hit a couple of people up the rear, I was hit up the back and on the side [one of them Hill]," he said. "Fortunately the Ferrari is a very strong car."

Fortune had less to do with it as the race stretched out, as Schumacher outclassed every driver in a display that fell seven seconds short of perfection over two hours. His one lapse — though he would admit that he and Irvine were having to use the clutch into slow corners to hold back the rampant power of their Ferraris — came on lap 52 of the 62 they were able to complete in the time.

So unprepared that he did not have a visor for the wet, nor a clear view, he erred coming towards the Devote corner, the first after the start-finish line. "I went straight!" he laughed — straight across the bend, but straight into a slip road, into reverse and out again. The whole process, from miscalculation to reverse spin to back on the track, cost him less than those seven seconds, and he was leading by over a minute.

Only Barrichello and Irvine were on the same lap by the finish, though ten drivers made the distance. Olivier Panis, in his Prost, Mika Salo, in the Tyrrell, and Giancarlo Fisichella, in one of the Jordans, were in the points.

Neither of the Williams cars finished. "The choice of tyres was a team choice," the owner, Frank Williams, said. "If it had worked out it would have made us heroes. Our choice was based on a forecast of very fine drizzle for 20 to 30 minutes. Under these most difficult circumstances, the drivers could not be faulted."

True, but one was pretty nearly faultless. He is the man putting Ferrari back where countless *tifosi*, the addicts of the Ferrari legend, believe it belongs. "I need a driver with intelligence, I need someone to push and improve the team, I need a huge driver." Luca di Montezemolo, the president, whose long and troubled quest to resurrect the famous Italian team included gambling a fortune on luring Michael Schumacher, said. Together, they look supreme.

Jackie Stewart and his son, Paul, celebrate their first points

DETAILS FROM MONTE CARLO

RESULT: 1, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 2hr 00min 5.654sec (62 laps). 2, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) at 53.306sec. 3, E Irvine (Ire, Ferrari) at 1min 22.108sec; 4, O Panis (Fr, Prost Mugen-Honda) at 1 44.402; 5, M Salo (Fin, Tyrrell-Ford) 61 laps; 6, G Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 61; 7, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 61; 8, J Verstappen (Holl, Tyrrell-Ford) 60, 9, G Berger (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 60; 10, U Katayama (Japan, Minardi-Hart) 60; 11, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 39; 12, S Nakano (Japan, Prost Mugen-Honda) 36; 13, N Larini (It, Sauber-Petronas) 24; 14, J Alesi (Fr, Benetton-Renault) 16; 15, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 16; 16, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Peugeot) 10; 17, J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 9; 18, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) 7; 19, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 1; 20, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 1; 21, D Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 1. Did not start: 22, P Diniz (Br, Arrows-Yamaha). Fastest lap: M Schumacher 1min 53.315sec (106.937kph).

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after five races): Drivers': 1, M Schumacher 24pts; 2, Villeneuve 20; 3, Irvine 14; 4 equal, Coulthard, Frentzen, Berger and Hakkinen 10; 8, Panis 9; 9, Barrichello 6; 10 equal, R Schumacher and Fisichella 4; 12 equal, Herbert and Alesi 3; 14, Salo 2; 15, Larini 1. Constructors': 1, Ferrari 38pts; 2, Williams-Renault 30; 3, McLaren-Mercedes 20; 4, Benetton-Renault 13; 5, Prost Mugen-Honda 9; 6, Jordan-Peugeot 7; 7, Stewart-Ford 6; 8, Sauber-Petronas 4, 9 Tyrrell-Ford 2.

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, Frentzen 1min 18.216sec, 2, M Schumacher 1:18.235, 3, Villeneuve 1:18.583; 4, Fisichella 1:18.665, 5, Coulthard 1:18.779; 6, R Schumacher 1:18.943; 7, Herbert 1:19.105; 8, Hakkinen 1:19.119; 9, Alesi 1:19.263; 10, Barrichello 1:19.295. 11, Larini 1:19.468; 12, Panis 1:19.626. 13, Hill 1:19.674; 14, Salo 1:19.694. 15, Irvine 1:19.723; 16, Diniz 1:19.860; 17, Berger 1:20.199; 18, Trulli 1:20.349; 19, Magnussen 1:20.518; 20, Katayama 1:20.606, 21, Nakano 1:20.961; 22, Verstappen 1:201.290.

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: May 25: Spanish (Barcelona). Jun 15: Canadian (Montreal) Jun 29: French (Magny-Cours) Jul 13: British (Silverstone). Jul 27: German (Hockenheim). Aug 10: Hungarian (Hungaroring) Aug 24: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps) Sep 7: Italian (Monza). Sep 21: Austrian (A-1 Ring). Sep 28: Luxembourg (Nürburgring) Oct 12: Japanese (Suzuka). Oct 26: Portuguese (Estoril)

EQUESTRIANISM

Badminton is Custom Made for O'Connor

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

DAVID O'CONNOR, of the United States, who first came to Badminton as groom to Mark Todd in 1980, fulfilled a longstanding ambition when he won the Mitsubishi Motors Trophy yesterday after a showjumping phase which proved almost as dramatic as the storms which accompanied it. O'Connor, 35, a team silver medal-winner in the Olympic Games in Atlanta, is only the second rider from the United States to win the trophy.

Ian Stark, of Britain, the overnight leader after his copybook cross-country round on Stanwick Ghost, saw his hopes of a third Badminton win crash about his ears when the 11-year-old gelding, owned by Lady Harrington, incurred 25 showjumping penalties. Last year, in similar circumstances, Stark had dropped to sixth place. Yesterday, to the dismay of the spectators who had come to applaud his victory, he dropped to thirteenth.

But the British selectors had their consolation. Mary King, within a whisker of maintaining her eight-month unbeaten record, finished runner-up on her Burghley winner, Star Appeal. King had just one mistake, at the penultimate fence, over the 12-fence course.

William Fox-Pitt wiped out the memory of his disappointing Atlanta trip with a superb performance on Frank Andrews' Cosmopolitan to take third place. Fox-Pitt, who was under pressure to prove that the 10-year-old gelding was a true four-star horse, silenced his critics with a foot-perfect cross-country performance and a clear round yesterday.

But the day belonged to O'Connor and Custom Made. One of the most popular — and articulate — riders on the circuit, yesterday's win has confirmed O'Connor's place in the top echelons. His stylish performances over the last four days were in marked contrast to his first visit in 1991 when he failed to complete after being run away with on Wilton Fair. "I realised I needed to go away and relearn my whole approach to the sport," he said yesterday.

Training from the Oxfordshire-based Lars Sederholm — Stark's trainer — paid dividends. The following year he returned to Badminton and was seventh. In 1993, the year he married fellow event rider Karen Lende who finished 55th yesterday, he won the British Open Championships on Lighter than Air.

The arrival of the handsome Irish-bred Custom Made in his yard continued the trend. They won Lexington in Kentucky in 1995 and were third at Badminton last year — a performance which guaranteed them selection for Atlanta where they were fifth in the individual contest. Yesterday's win left O'Connor almost speechless. "It's a magic feeling — I feel I can't breathe', he said after receiving the magnificent tropy and £25,000 first prize. "When you're a kid this is the one you want, this is the one you dream of winning."

The drama unfolded yesterday even before the start of the showjumping. Andrew Hoy's Darien Powers, lying in fourth place after a copybook cross-country round, was withdrawn, lame, — completing a disappointing weekend for Australia, the Olympic champions. Robert Lemieux, of Canada, lying eighth after his best performance for a decade, also withdrew Just An Ace after he too was 'held over' during the final horse inspection.

With riders going in reverse order of merit yesterday the atrocious conditions which beset the first half of the field had subsided by the time the afternoon session, involving the top 20, began. Daisy Dick completed her stylish performances this week on the 14-year-old Headley Bravo with a well-judged clear round. Pippa Funnell, whose superb crosscountry round on Sarah Jewson's endearing Bits and Pieces confirmed that their fourth place at Burghley was no fluke, incurred five faults at Fence six and dropped from eighth to eleventh place.

Blyth Tait, the New Zealand Olympic champion, lying seventh, put the pressure on the leaders with a stylish clear round on Chesterfield. Fox-Pitt then produced his faultless round. King gave O'Connor a breathing space with her five faults — but O'Connor had no need of any help. Faultless to the end he left Stark with no room for error if the "Flying Scot", as he is known, was to retain his first place.

Even with a reliable showjumper it would have been an unerving moment for Stark. But he was sitting on a horse who, until this spring — when Sederholm had helped retrain him — had not jumped a clear showjumping round since 1994. The suspense did not last. The first fence fell — and after that it was a matter of Stark trying to limit the damage as pole after pole fell.

DETAILS

MITSUBISHI MOTORS TROPHY: 1, Custom Made (D O'Connor, US) 49.25pts. 2, Star Appeal (M King, GB) 55.00; 3, Cosmopolitan (W Fox-Pitt, GB) 55.60; 4, Chesterfield (B Tait, NZ) 56.20; 5, Lafayett (L Algotsson, Swe) 57.20; 6, Squirrel Hill (S Clark, NZ) 61.40; 7, Headley Bravo (D Dick, GB) 62.0; 8, Eagle Lion (B Davidson, US) 64.20; 9, Bits and Pieces (P Funnell, GB) 65.0, 10, Bounce (V Jeffens, NZ) 65.20

David O'Connor guides Custom Made over the third jump en route to a stylish victory at Badminton

HOCKEY

Teddington show mettle

Reading 1
Teddington 2

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

TEDDINGTON regained the Hockey Association Cup after an exciting victory against Reading, the holders, in the final at Milton Keynes yesterday.

Teddington once again underlined their resilience in a fiercely-fought match played in blustery winds and driving rain. After squandering three short corners in their early assault on the Reading goal, Teddington were shaken when the premier division champions scored from their first move of consequence.

Ashdown picked up a loose ball at the top of the circle and flicked it to Hoskin, who scored with a superb angled shot in the 24th minute. Barely two minutes later Conway's creative powers inspired Billson to score the equaliser, and the battle was joined.

The pattern changed in the second half, with Reading's attacks looking more sustained, but their failure to convert three successive short corners proved costly.

The tide turned when Teddington broke away for Conway to score in the 58th minute from a well-worked short corner.

Reading hurled themselves into a fierce offensive in the last five minutes, with Pearn and Hoskin conspicuous, but their hopes faded when Hoskin was suspended for a desperate tackle. Laslett's midfield scheming played a prominent part in Teddington's success.

West Herts retained the Hockey Association Trophy after a 4-0 victory over De Montfort University, from Bedford. The students, 2-0 down at the interval, raised their game in the second half, but to no avail as West Herts scored twice more through Graham Day, from a short corner, and Hodgkinson. Taylor and Willis, from another short corner, scored their earlier goals.

The Veterans Trophy for players over 50 was retained by Eastcote, who defeated Basingstoke 2-1.

READING: R Hargreaves; J Slay, J Wyatt, C Oscroft, A Holden, M Hoskin, G Edwards, K Sanders, R Todd, M Pearn, S Ashdown. Subs used: A Jones, S Briscoe, J Loose.

TEDDINGTON: J Ebsworth; T Moore, P McGuire, S Dawkins, A Colclough, J Laslett, J Wallis, S Nicklin, J Hauck, N Conway, A Billson. Subs used: D Haydon, P Way, G Read.

Umpires: A Hoyes (Southern Counties) and D Collier (Northern Counties).

Clifton aim to finish bridge into Europe

CLIFTON avenged their defeat by Ipswich last year in the AEWHA Cup final when Denise Marston-Smith scored two second-half goals to steer them to a 4-2 victory over the holders in the semifinals yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes). The Bristol club will meet the former winners, Hightown, in the final in a fortnight after they beat their northern rivals, Doncaster, 2-0.

Tammy Miller, the Clifton captain, who led her team to a third-place finish in the Premiership this season, was quick to look ahead to the final. "We've had a couple of really successful seasons and deserved to win, especially after we made such a good start," she said. "It also shows that losing in last season's final wasn't just a lucky run. Now we want to go all the way and qualify for Europe."

Miller set up Clifton's opening goal after just three minutes, when she broke down the right from inside her own half and, after passing to Culliford, Rayden applied the finishing touch to her pass when she deflected the ball into the roof of the net.

Fry converted a fifteenth-minute penalty stroke to equalise, but Marston-Smith put her side ahead from the penalty spot a minute after the break and made it 3-1 in the fiftieth minute. Miller increased the lead when she cracked in a penalty corner three minutes later before Sandall replied with a consolation goal.

At Doncaster, Hightown had their two former England captains, Linda Carr and Maggie Souyave, to thank after they both scored to help them into their fourth final. Carr converted a second-minute penalty stroke and Souyave sealed the win in the 59th minute after a slick passing movement.

TENNIS

Pierce puts end to poor title sequence

MARY PIERCE, of France, swept to victory in the Italian Open in Rome yesterday, when she beat the ailing defending champion, Conchita Martinez, of Spain, 6-4, 6-0. Pierce, who had knocked out Monica Seles, the top seed, earlier in the week, made few mistakes and used her powerful groundstrokes to good effect against an injury-hit rival.

Martinez, who had won the event every year since 1993, needed regular physiotherapy for a muscle problem around the nape of her neck and a shoulder blade.

"I'm disappointed," the Spaniard said. "I had a pain in my neck throughout the match."

Andrei Medvedev continued his impressive recovery from the back and shoulder injuries that have hampered his career for two years by winning his third German Open title in Hamburg yesterday. Medvedev, the the Ukraine, beat Felix Mantilla 6-0, 6-4, 6-2. Medvedev outclassed Mantilla, of Spain, especially early in the match. "He gave me a lesson," Mantilla, the No 12 seed, said.

Medvedev raced through the first ten games in 41 minutes to lead 4-0 in the second set, cleverly changing pace with drop shots and hitting winners from all over the court. "The way I played at the start is probably as good as I can play. It's great that it happened in the final," Medvedev said.

JUDO

Fairbrother's injury mars medal success

BY JOHN GOODBODY

GREAT Britain's medal successes at the European championships in Ostend at the weekend were marred by the news that Nicola Fairbrother will have to undergo a shoulder operation and could miss the world championships in October.

The 1992 Olympic silver medal-winner withdrew from the lightweight category at the European championships yesterday because of the damaged joint, which has been giving her problems for some time.

Although Fairbrother qualified for the repechage yesterday after fighting through the preliminaries on Friday, when she tried exercising the shoulder on Saturday she began to feel pain again.

An operation would put the 1993 world champion out of action for three months and it must be doubtful that she will be able to try to regain her title in Paris at the beginning of October.

Britain collected five medals over the weekend. On Saturday, the heavyweight, Michelle Rogers, and light-heavyweight, Chloe Cowen, both took silver medals and Kate Howey collected a bronze in the middleweight category.

Rogers, outweighed in the semi-final by more than 40 kilos by the 120-kilo Beate Maksymow, defeated the Pole by a tactical decision. However, in the final, she was twice bowled over by Johanna Hagn for decisive knock-downs.

Cowen, a single mother from Tyne and Wear, battled past Simona Richter, of Romania, to reach the final where she was beaten by Ulla Werbrouck, the defending champion from Belgium.

Yesterday, Britain collected two more bronze medals through featherweight Julian Davies and lightweight Danny Kingston. In the decisive bouts, Davies cleanly threw Gabriel Bengston of Sweden while Kingston had a clear-cut victory over Guilherme Bents of Portugal.

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FOOTBALL: MANCHESTER UNITED PROVE EFFICIENT TO THE LAST AS SEASON ENDS IN CELEBRATION

Champions' title party runs smoothly

Manchester United 2
West Ham United 0

By Mark Hodkinson

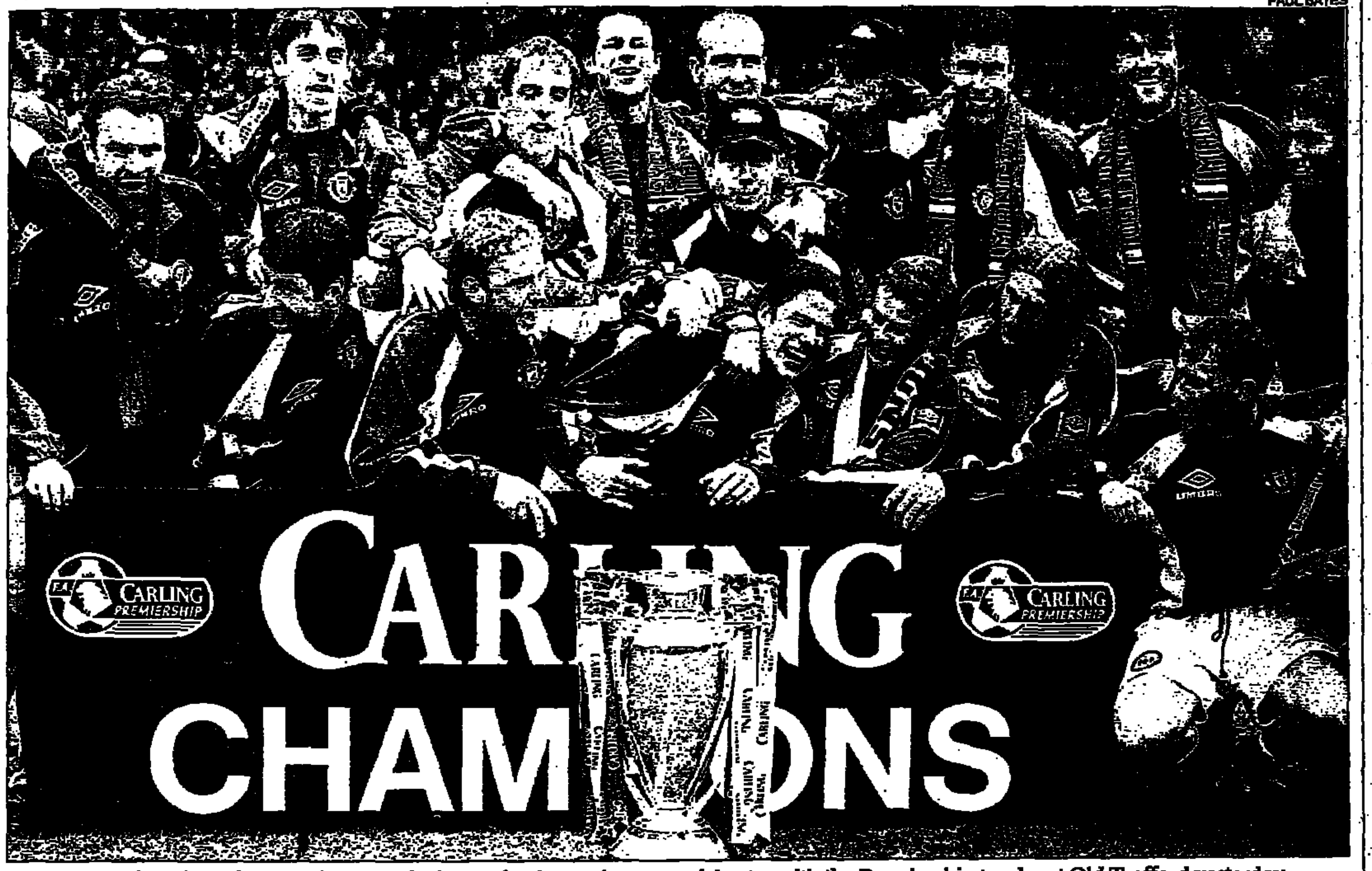
SKILL, endurance, luck and *supreme* confidence are all vital ingredients for a team to secure the FA Carling Premiership title. Another crucial factor is organisation and Manchester United, typically, excel in this particular field. In short, they now had to organise a party.

Visitors to Old Trafford yesterday were *presented* with an official timetable of events, neatly typed and laid out like a GCSE examination paper.

Four of the United sides — the reserves, A team, B team and, of course, their first team, have won their respective leagues. So, Eric Cantona received his player-of-the-year award on the centre circle (south side), while the supporters' tribute to Sir Matt Busby took place at the South West Quadrant. It seemed almost incidental that at 4pm a football match started between Manchester United and West Ham United.

Again, the downgrading of the final Premiership matches of the season owed everything to Manchester United's nerveless efficiency. It should have been a frantic showdown, a breathless spat between the football giants from Manchester, *Newcastle United* and Liverpool. Like the weather yesterday — rain, sun, rain — United's form has been more patchy than expected but they had secured the championship with two games to spare.

Yesterday afternoon the ground was awash with the flags of several European countries to reflect the team's cosmopolitan make-up. The communal singing was eventually *interrupted* by the kick-off and West Ham, free of the threat of relegation, advertised their mood of relaxation when Kitson lifted the ball out of play direct from the kick-off.



Crowning glory: the Manchester United party begins as the team celebrates with the Premiership trophy at Old Trafford yesterday

AUL BATES

Manchester United immediately fell into their seamless passing game and were rewarded with a fine goal from Scholes. After some patient approach work, he thundered a shot against the underside of the crossbar and Solskjaer headed in the rebound to make sure. The goal, though it lifted the crowd, *did little* for the game as a contest.

United were happy to retreat deep into their own half while West Ham covered any runs that threatened to move into their territory. The sun broke free from a buttress of clouds and, amid the concise but unadventurous passing, it was clear that minds had already wandered to the final whistle and the inevitable celebration party.

Jordi Cruff was brought on soon after half-time and there were suggestions that the presence of his famous father in the stands had prompted *the substitution; it was that* kind of afternoon.

Dowie moved in on goal but fell on to the ball as he tried to shoot. Lomas brought a save from Schmeichel as West Ham added a dash of adventure to the general stoicism. Bilic even summoned the energy to set about Beckham after the midfield player had clipped one heel too many in a well-populated midfield. The referee agreed that Beckham had been unneccesarily reckless and took his name.

An army of burly chaps in blazers and ties took up position at the perimeter fence 15 *minutes before the end to deter* supporters from running onto the turf. Their brief was to keep a watch on the crowd and not the game — they did not miss a great deal as proceedings became increasingly scrappy at their backs.

Cantona suddenly moved forward and played a wonderful pass to the feet of Cruyff. The Dutchman shifted his weight and crashed the ball past Miklosko.

A light aircraft circled overhead bearing the message "MUFC — champions again" and the crowd urged Schmeichel to move forward *to join the United attack.*

Though the scoreline now flattered United, it was fitting that their championship season should end in suitably relaxed mood. The final cameo of an otherwise predictable afternoon saw Les Sealey, the former Manchester United goalkeeper, replace Miklosko in the West Ham goal. He milked the applause of the Stretford End and truly ignited the party atmosphere.

The rain poured down, the championship trophy came out, and, once more, Manchester found itself at the epicentre of footballing *excellence.*

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — D Irwin (sub: M Clegg, 45min), D May, R Johnsen, P Neville — K Poborsky (sub: B McClair, 71), D Beckham, N Butt, P Scholes (sub: J Cruyff, 49) — E Cantona, O G Solskjaer.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): L Miklosko (sub: L Sealey, 89) — R Ferdinand (sub: M Hughes, 65), R Hall, S Bilic — S Potts, J Moncur, S Lomas, H Porfirio, S Lazarides — I Dowie, P Kitson.

Referee: S Lodge

New-look Newcastle joining Europe's elite

Newcastle United 5
Nottingham Forest 0

By Andrew Longmore

FOR the second year in succession, *Newcastle had the European Cup on* their minds in the last game of the season. That they will make it this time through the tradesman's entrance will matter not a jot to their accountants, who were buoyed by the £4 million renewal of their sponsorship deal with Newcastle Breweries before kick-off and can now anticipate the takings from a preliminary knockout round of *Europe's most* prized tournament early in August.

Victory then and the big money of the Champions' League beckons. No wonder there was much dancing by the grey-suited brigade as news of Liverpool's draw at Hillsborough filtered through. Not too much should be read into this facile victory over relegated Nottingham Forest. Three goals in six minutes midway through the first half settled the matter, though one would have done *so downcast were the visitors.* Dalglish, ever the pragmatist, would have been as happy with four clean sheets to end the season.

It was a day of farewells. Nottingham Forest will be purchasing their gazeteers. David Ginola, not granted the sentimental gift of a place on the bench, will be driving his Renault south over the Tyne Bridge. His *transfer request has been granted* and his departure is the starkest reflection of the changing style on Tyneside.

Quite what the future holds for Asprilla remains to be seen. Dalglish is reputedly captivated by the silky skills of the Colombian, but he has spent £2.5 million on Jon Dahl Tomasson, the leading scorer in the Dutch league. His dichotomy was aptly summed up in the opening half an hour. No sooner had Dalglish *turned in disgust as Asprilla dallied* terribly over a shooting chance than he was putting his hands together to acknowledge the first of three quickfire goals.

Asprilla scored the first, skipping through the heart of the Forest defence, such as it was, to clip a left-foot shot over Fettis and set up the second for Ferdinand two minutes *later with a pass of stunning vision.* Admittedly, Forest contributed soundly to their own downfall. If it was Stuart Pearce's idea to counter a three-man attack of Ferdinand, Shearer and Asprilla with a three-man defence then his return to the rank of private will come as a relief.

Without Van Hooijdonk, Saunders, Pearce himself, Crossley and Roy, Forest were clearly planning for the future. It looks a little bleak. For the first ten minutes, they *played quite brightly, forcing Srnicek* into saves at the foot of either post, but once Newcastle had realised that the direct route was the most effective, Forest's fate was sealed.

The third goal came after Barton, breaking forward from deep in his own half, played a swift one-two with Watson and released Ferdinand to drive home a cross-shot. Had *Phillips not stuck out a foot to block* a Shearer shot, the damage would have been more severe.

Shearer was not denied for long, though there was a touch of good fortune about Newcastle's fourth goal, in the 37th minute. Elliott's long shot was partially blocked, but bounced up invitingly at the far post where Shearer's shaven head planted it firmly into the net. Newcastle amused themselves after that, bringing on Beardsley for what might *prove to* be a last *runaround.* Elliott added a fifth, 15 minutes from time.

Barcelona or Milan for Newcastle perhaps; Bury for Forest. The crowd gloated over the demise of Middlesbrough and Sunderland. A rousing chorus of "We'll meet again" would have been a more appropriate send-off for Forest.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-1-2): P Srnicek — S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert (sub: K Gillespie, 68min), J Beresford — W Barton, D Batty (sub: P Beardsley, 72), R Elliott — F Asprilla (sub: L Clark, 65) — L Ferdinand, A Shearer.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-2): A Fettis — C Cooper, D Phillips, S Chettle — D Lyttle, S Gemmill, B O'Neill (sub: D Saunders 78), C Bart-Williams (sub: C Allen 45), I Woan — K Campbell, I Moore.

Referee: M Reed

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Bergkamp adds last memory as Derby say their farewells

Derby County 1
Arsenal 3

By Richard Hobson

WHAT was to become a familiar tale unfolded 102 years ago when Steve Bloomer scored the winning goals on Derby County's first appearance at the Baseball Ground. Yesterday, on their last, they were indebted to a bloomer from a less likely source, but ultimately succumbed to two of the most effective strikers in the FA Carling Premiership.

On a day of last hurrahs, no departure ought to have carried *more significance to the* contest than that of Tony Adams just 11 minutes into proceedings. Two minutes earlier, the England defender had been booked for clattering into Asanovic. Never one to tiptoe on eggshells, he lunged just as clumsily into Daryl Powell on the opposite flank and saw yellow for a second time.

The crowd roared, just as *they had through an emotion*al pre-match build-up. Alan Hinton, his hair now as snowy-white as the shirts he once adorned, flew in from the United States to lead a parade of former players. Charlie George seemed unsure which set of supporters to applaud. His goals against in the 1976 European Cup campaign are recalled as fondly in these parts as his winning strike for Arsenal in the FA Cup Final five years earlier is around Finsbury Park.

Brian Clough sent his apologies, citing flu as an explanation for his non-attendance, but Dave Mackay, who led Derby to promotion as a player and the championship as a manager, was present as guest of honour. There was much for Mackay to savour, though the closing emotion was one of frustration.

In the first half, after the dismissal of Adams, Derby created chances in abundance, but their finishing lacked the precision of some adventurous approach work. Ward gave them the lead in the seventh minute after his initial header rebounded off the post. Later, he hit the upright again and produced a fine save *from* Seaman three minutes into the second half when he connected with a Chris Powell cross.

In changing times, just three things can be said with any certainty of Arsenal. They *have more heart than most, in* Seaman they have a formidable goalkeeper and Wright retains an insatiable spirit at the other end. Wright's equaliser in the 54th minute testified to speed of both thought and *limb.* Anelka, a substitute, cut inside from the left to unleash a firm drive that Poom could only parry. As defenders turned, there was Wright already poised to drive home from six yards.

Wright: instinct

Little blame could be attached to the goalkeeper from Estonia. In any case, he owed *Derby nothing,* having produced saves already beyond the call of duty from both Wright and Bergkamp. Poom, though, was powerless to prevent Bergkamp putting Arsenal ahead in the eightieth *minute with as sublime a goal* as the Baseball Ground can have witnessed. Derby felt they had repelled an attack when the ball fell to the Holland striker on the right of the goal. A glance upwards revealed the keeper off his line, a perfectly projected chip floated the ball into the far corner. Wright merely confirmed victory when he turned in Anelka's cross before the most *final of final whistles.*

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): M Poom — P McGrath (sub: L Carsley, 58min), C Daily, J Laursen — G Rowett, R van der Laan, D Powell (sub: P Trollope, 44), A Asanovic, C Powell — R Willems (sub: P Simpson, 75); A Ward

ARSENAL (3-5-2): D Seaman — M Keown, A Adams, S Bould — L Dixon, P Merson (sub: N Anelka, 8), P Vieira (sub: R Parlour, 75), D Platt — D Bergkamp, I Wright.

Referee: P Durkin.

Blackburn beaten by lack of appetite for the fray

Blackburn Rovers 2
Leicester City 4

By David Miller

FOR Blackburn Rovers, this *was one match too far. Had* the point on Thursday against Middlesbrough not brought safety, their place in the FA Carling Premiership would have been in dire danger on this last, rain-swept afternoon at Ewood Park, the steel monument to Jack Walker set in homely Lancashire hills.

Leicester City, who likewise had gained midweek security with victory on Wednesday, had, in a word, appetite. Blackburn did not. The months of anxiety had drained their willpower. With the job that mattered already done, Blackburn's empty legs and flagging hearts were unmistakably apparent as 11 men stood immobile, hands on hips, as Leicester ran back to the centre circle after Steve Claridge had scored to give them a *2-1 lead ten minutes* into the second half.

One minute after Claridge's goal, Blackburn were effectively buried by a further strike of breathtaking brilliance by Heskey, who brushed past a defender to fire a rising drive behind and above Flowers into the roof of the net. Promoted Leicester may have struggled to hold their *status,* but the clear impression is that Martin O'Neill has formed the basis of a side that may prosper next season. They might even, as Coca-Cola Cup-winners, surprise a few in the Uefa Cup.

There are many anonymous, unsung heroes in *football* every year. The foremost this season is surely Tony Parkes, a temporary manager whose diligence, integrity and modesty have given fresh definition to the term "caretaker". When he took charge of his club for the third time, succeeding the marooned Ray Harford in October, many doubted whether Blackburn could be rescued and few supposed that Parkes would be the one to go the distance and do so.

When he briefly ran on to the pitch, track-suited, to receive a supporters' award before the kick-off, presented by Walker, the moment touched the emotions of any neutral with affection for *this famous old club.* Walker's bold promise of being "regulars in Europe" to a newly-cheerful audience was less easy to endorse. Having spent one fortune to win the championship, Walker probably needs to spare another now to stay afloat.

Blackburn were *soon* finding it an uphill fight. Early on, a scooped cross from the left by Guppy was headed by Heskey down into the corner of Flowers' net, with the ever-valiant Hendry failing to get in a challenge, undermined by the injury for which he will soon undergo an *operation.*

A quarter of an hour later, Blackburn were level, with a bit of luck. Gallacher's shot was fumbled by Keller, somebody hacked the loose ball clear and it rebounded *into the net off Flitcroft's* shins.

Either side of half-time, Fenton, Sherwood and Flitcroft missed openings that might have put Blackburn beyond reach. Instead, Claridge, with a neat side-step, swept an angled shot beyond Flowers and, in the *next instant,* Heskey *made it* 3-1. Fenton got one back, but Wilson ended the season with a shot that went in off Kenna, Heskey having headed down from beyond the far post. Next season, I suspect, defences will increasingly come to fear Leicester's swift and powerful attacker.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, I Pearce, C Hendry (sub: N Marker, 84min), G Le Saux — T Sherwood, W McKinlay, G Flitcroft, D Duff — K Gallacher, G Fenton.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — F Rolling (sub: S Wilson, 75), S Prior (sub: M Whitlow, 26), M Elliott, M Grayson (sub: J Lawrence, 36), S Campbell, P Kaamark, N Lennon, S Guppy — S Claridge, E Heskey.

Referee: S Dunn

Villa and Souness are happy to share the plaudits

Aston Villa 1
Southampton 0

By Mel Webb

PERHAPS there was too much at stake. Nerves twanged like violin strings as the sides strove for very different goals at opposite ends of the FA Carling Premiership table yesterday. The quality of the football suffered terribly, but, with the help of a couple of outside agencies, both clubs achieved their objectives.

Villa's narrow victory *means* that they will play in Europe next year for the sixth time since the ban on English clubs was lifted in 1991. Southampton, meanwhile, have defied gravity yet again. How they do so year in and year out — next year *will be their* twentieth successive season in the top flight — is one of the more enduring conundrums.

Teams managed by Graeme Souness always attempt to play decent fooball, but Souness is a man whose principles are heavily underlaid by a pronounced streak of *pragmatism.* His *teamsheet* revealed his intentions before a ball was kicked — no Le Tissier or Berkovic in the starting line-up; this was not going to be pretty.

Le Tissier seems more and more to have become a peripheral figure in the Southampton set-up. He flitted in and out of games *as a substitute* as Southampton put together a run of four victories and three draws in the seven games that preceded this one. Souness's message could not have been clearer had he shouted it from on high: discipline first, the clever stuff second and last.

It was not clear which of those two qualities was uppermost in the mind of Dryden, the Southampton centre back, at the moment of the all-important goal in the eleventh minute.

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Robson's pride 31
Freedman stars 31

There seemed no more than a routine threat as Nelson overlapped from the back and sent in a low cross. There was nobody in a Villa shirt on the end of it, but Dryden still elected to stretch every sinew to cut out the cross and succeeded only in sliding the ball off his boot past Taylor in the Southampton goal.

Disaster, that over-used word of over-statement, rarely *applies to something* as gloriously trivial as sport, but to Souness and his cohorts on the Southampton bench it would have been dismissed as entirely too trifling a description for Dryden's error. Heads were hung, gloom abounded; Villa, meanwhile, acclaimed Nelson as if he had just won the *lottery. In a funny sort of way,* perhaps he had.

It was the sort of wildly prodigal gesture for which Southampton had become notorious. This, remember, is the side that beat Manchester United 6-3 at the end of October then lost 7-1 to Everton less than two weeks *later. There is probably not* another side in the Premiership capable of such inconsistency — mercury flows powerfully through the veins of the playing personnel at The Dell.

Southampton showed few signs of breaking down the five-man Villa defence but things changed when *Le* Tissier was brought on for Ostenstad. Le Tissier had been on the field for barely three minutes when his 35-yard free kick ricocheted off the wall and only a swooping save by Bosnich denied him his seventeenth goal of the season.

It was to be Southampton's last *hurrah. Events* at Elland Road and Selhurst Park had kept them up, and Dryden's act of charity *had merely* underscored Villa's return ticket to Europe. Aims achieved, targets hit; a satisfactory outcome from an unsatisfactory match.

ASTON VILLA (5-3-2): M Bosnich — F Nelson, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, R Scimeca, A Wright — I Taylor, S Staunton, A Townsend — S Milosevic, D Yorke.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): M Taylor — U Van Gobbel, C Lundekvam, R Dryden, F Benali — M Oakley, J Dodd, J Magilton, R Slater — E Ostenstad (sub: M Le Tissier, 72), M Evans.

Referee: G Willard.

ZOLA POWER!
CHELSEA'S SUPERSTAR SET TO IGNITE THE FINAL
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FOOTBALL: COVENTRY'S LAST-GASP HEROICS HELP TO RELEGATE NORTH EAST RIVALS AFTER DRAMATIC PREMIERSHIP DENOUEMENT

City savour sequel to the great escape

Tottenahm Hotspur 1
Coventry City 2

By Russell Kempson

COVENTRY City, the great escapologists of the FA Carling Premiership, did it again yesterday. For the ninth time during their 30-year unbroken run in the top flight of English football, they retained their status in the final match of the season. They needed to beat Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane and for results elsewhere to go their way. Win they did, and the other scorelines favoured them, too.

As Martin Bodenham, the referee, blew the final whistle, Gordon Strachan, the Coventry player-manager, first checked that his team was safe and then set off towards the fans, his wee legs working overtime. He bowed, he applanded, he jumped with glee. Were it not so heart-warming, it would have been comical.

"I had to check first that we were all right before I went running out on to the pitch and making a fool of myself," Strachan said. "We were so brave out there, mentally and physically, and I am just delighted for everyone involved with the club, past and present. When something like this happens, you think more of other people than yourself."

Stoked up to near fever pitch, Coventry had come out fighting from the off. The bruising tone was set as early as the second minute, when Carr was felled from behind by an excruciating late tackle from Burrows. Bodenham set his standards, too, by booking him.

Five others joined him in the opening 25 minutes, after a series of petty squabbles, wild challenges and confrontations. Richardson, Williams and Whelan were also cautioned as Coventry's burning desire threatened to spill over into warfare.

Amid the thunder, though, Coventry were still able to display the finer technique, the more considered skills under pressure. Huckerby was everywhere, disorientating *the Tottenham defence* with his teasing and taunting. Such bold endeavours were rewarded in the twelfth minute. Whelan delivered the ball invitingly into the area and Dublin glanced the most delicate of headers past Baardsen. Dublin, variously used by Strachan as a striker and central defender, celebrated his thirteenth goal of the season with almost manic gusto.

Once the niggling had subsided, Coventry concentrated on the job. In the 38th minute, with the home defence again absent, they increased their lead. McAllister chipped over a corner from the right and Williams volleyed past Baardsen via a post. Five minutes later, though, Tottenham dredged up a response. Sheringham's 30-yard free kick beat the outstretched right hand of Ogrizovic, thudded against an upright and sat up for McVeigh to nod in at close range.

As news filtered in from around the country — the kick-off had been delayed by 15 minutes because of traffic congestion — Coventry began to realise their position. If they stayed ahead, they stayed up. Deane's goal for Leeds United against Middlesbrough enhanced that feeling, as did Euell's effort for Wimbledon against Sunderland. The supporters in sky blue, tuned in to their radios, cheered every snippet of information.

With 15 minutes left and Coventry showing signs of wilting, the conundrum became clear. Sunderland and Middlesbrough were gone, consigned to the Premiership dustbin, if Coventry retained their lead. If not, Sunderland would be handed a last-minute reprieve. It was an awful 15 minutes. Burrows's petulance might have faded, but Huckerby's legs had gone and Strachan's voice had almost gone, too. Only the positioning and agility of Ogrizovic kept Coventry afloat *as the seconds ticked* by, slowly, agonisingly.

Twice Ogrizovic saved defiantly, magnificently, as Fenn drove in a shot from only a few yards out and then Dozzell powered in a header from Fox's corner. Then it was over, Bodenham's concluding whistle ending the torment.

"I am desperate for a cup of tea and I just want to sit down," Strachan said, his composure having returned. Coventry had survived, again, *at the death — as if it could* have been any other way.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-5-2): E Baardsen — R Vega, J Scales, S Campbell — S Carr, R Fox, J Dozzell, A Sinton (sub: J Clapham, 22min), J Edinburgh — E Sheringham, P McVeigh (sub: N Fenn, 73).
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — P Telfer, R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows — N Whelan (sub: E Jess, 39), K Richardson, G McAllister, P Ndlovu — D Huckerby, D Dublin.
Referee: M Bodenham.

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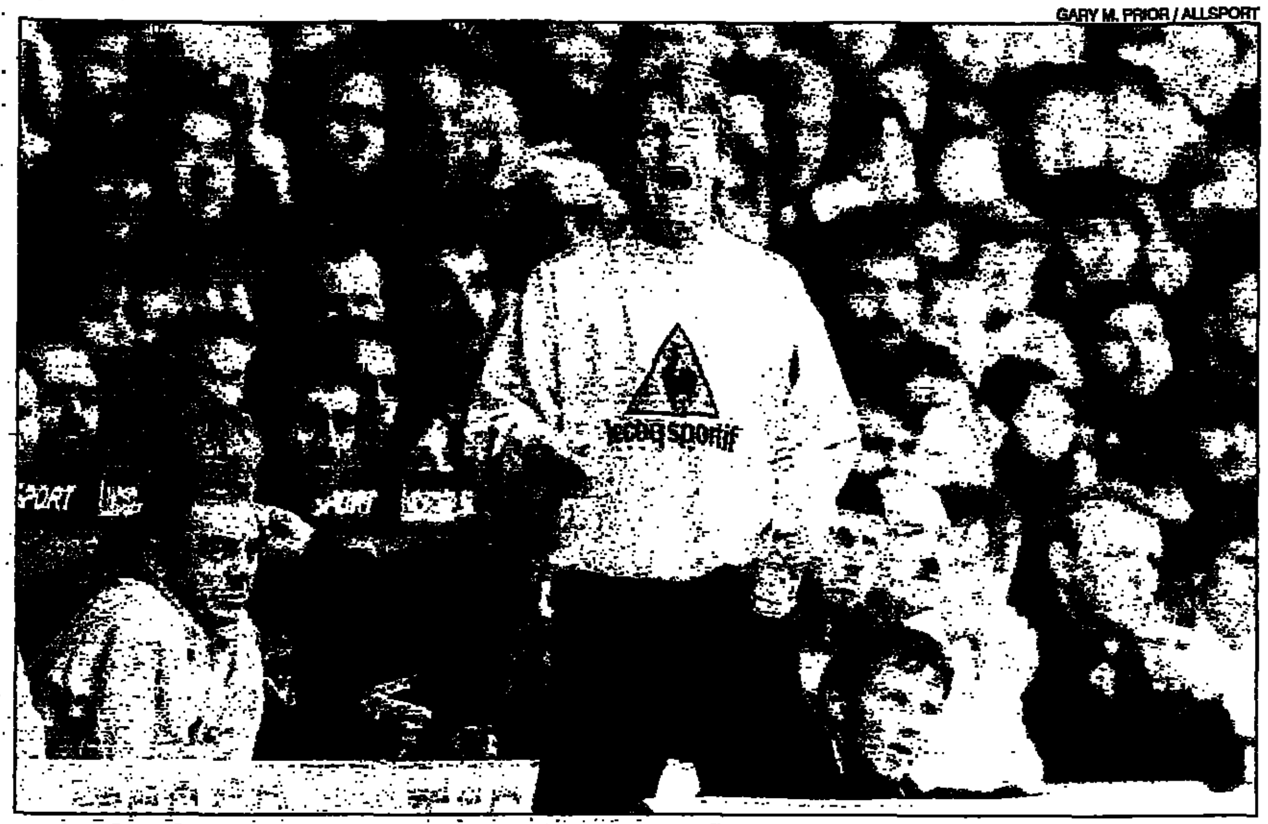
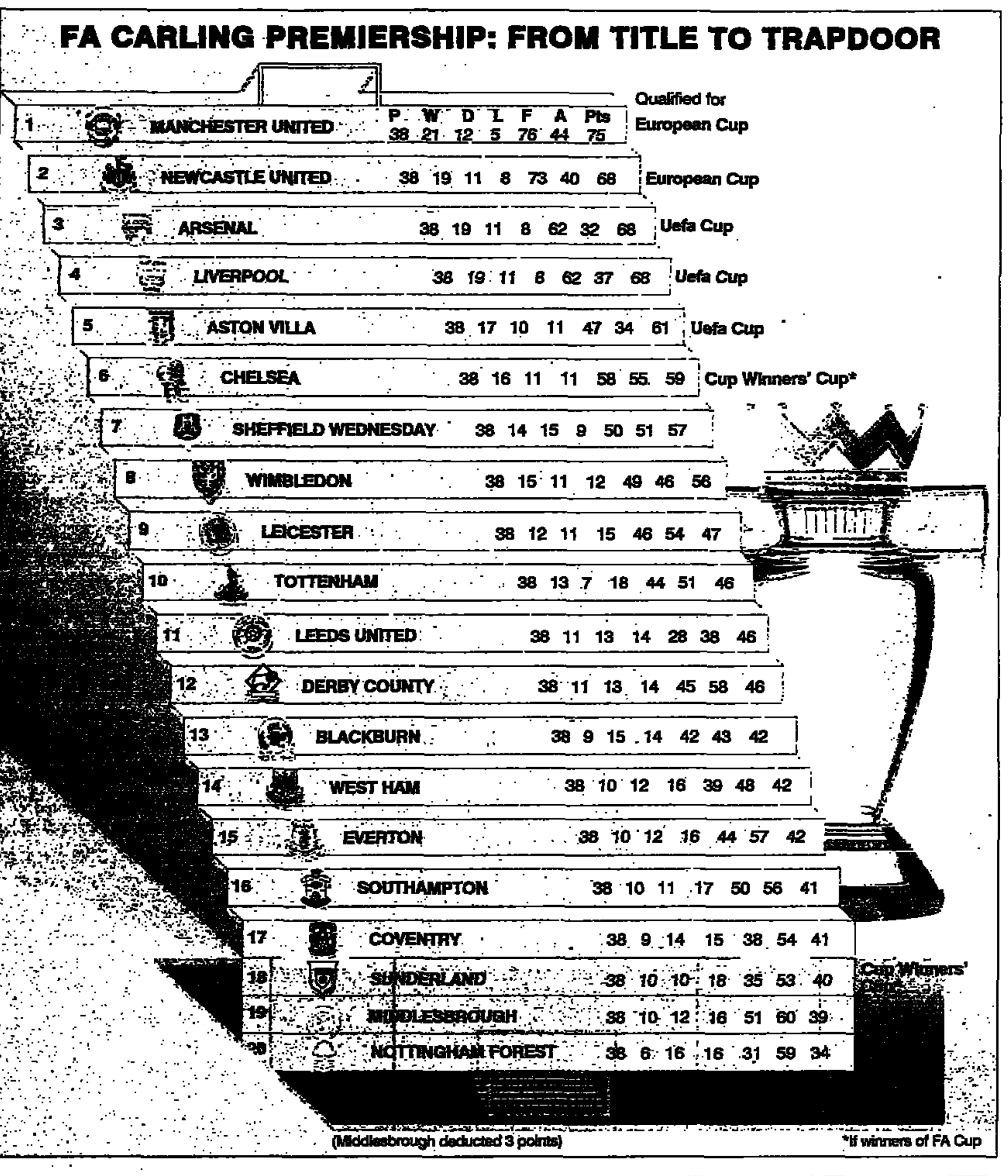


Strachan, the player-manager, shows the strain as Coventry fight for survival at White Hart Lane yesterday

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: FROM TITLE TO TRAPDOOR



		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Qualified for
1	MANCHESTER UNITED	38	21	12	5	76	44	75	European Cup
2	NEWCASTLE UNITED	38	19	11	8	73	40	68	European Cup
3	ARSENAL	38	19	11	8	62	32	68	Uefa Cup
4	LIVERPOOL	38	19	11	8	62	37	68	Uefa Cup
5	ASTON VILLA	38	17	10	11	47	34	61	Uefa Cup
6	CHELSEA	38	16	11	11	58	55	59	Cup Winners' Cup*
7	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	38	14	15	9	50	51	57	
8	WIMBLEDON	38	15	11	12	49	46	56	
9	LEICESTER	38	12	11	15	46	54	47	
10	TOTTENHAM	38	13	7	18	44	51	46	
11	LEEDS UNITED	38	11	13	14	28	38	46	
12	DERBY COUNTY	38	11	13	14	45	58	46	
13	BLACKBURN	38	9	15	14	42	43	42	
14	WEST HAM	38	10	12	16	39	48	42	
15	EVERTON	38	10	12	16	44	57	42	
16	SOUTHAMPTON	38	10	11	17	50	56	41	
17	COVENTRY	38	9	14	15	38	54	41	
18	SUNDERLAND	38	10	10	18	35	53	40	
19	MIDDLESBROUGH	38	10	12	16	51	60	39	Cup Winners' Cup
20	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	38	6	16	16	31	59	34	

(Middlesbrough deducted 3 points)

*If winners of FA Cup

Sunderland go down in the shallow end

Wimbledon 1
Sunderland 0

By Brian Glanville

SUNDERLAND go down. Any vestigial hope they had *disappeared after 87 minutes* when Dean Holdsworth beat Richard Ord on the left, drew another man, then slipped the ball across for young Jason Euell to drive his shot past Perez. Thus Euell atoned for having missed an easy chance minutes earlier, when he was set up by Ardley and Leonhardsen, only to pull his shot carelessly wide.

One had to feel sympathy for the thousands of Sunderland fans who had made the long trip to Selhurst Park from the North East. Clad mostly in the famous red and white stripes which their team, for some perverse reason, were not wearing in this game, they were still singing and cheering at the bitter end.

Truth to tell, Sunderland scarcely did enough to deserve anything more than a draw, which itself would not have guaranteed survival. They are a dull, functional team, with little but their grand tradition to recommend them. Next season, part of that will go when they move from their historic home of Roker Park.

Sunderland, you may remember, were the last of the original first division clubs to be relegated. But that was a *long time ago, and since then,* they have largely been struggling in the shallows.

Not that Wimbledon, on this occasion, looked much better. You might to some extent excuse the general mediocrity on the grounds of a bumpy pitch and a brisk wind. These factors may have had something to do with the goal-scoring opportunity the veteran Chris Waddle culpably missed early in the second half; thus missing the chance *of enabling the team he once* supported to stay in the top division.

When Niall Quinn touched the ball to Waddle, it came to his favoured left foot, but he snatched at the chance and, sadly, miskicked.

Overall, Sunderland made very few clear chances. After 80 minutes, when Craig Russell crossed accurately from the left, Paul Stewart, with the goal in his sights, headed over the bar, as Fear had done *shortly beforehand at the other* end.

Neither team ever truly struck a rhythm and not even Oyvind Leonhardsen, the Norwegian midfield player, presumably playing his last game for Wimbledon, could impose himself on the play. It is reported that Leonhardsen will shortly be leaving Wimbledon at a £4.5 million fee. However, Wimbledon can console themselves that they will still have Robbie Earle, who missed this match through injury.

Not only was there little *movement or invention to* enjoy; there was very little dramatic incident, either. Holdsworth, after 35 minutes, presaged Wimbledon's eventual goal when he put over a short cross from the left, but Ord, on that occasion, turned the ball behind.

Should Wimbledon have had a penalty, close to half-time? Leonhardsen wriggled round Darren Williams, who then appeared to fall on top of him, knocking him down. Dermot Gallagher, the referee, saw nothing wrong in this and Leonhardsen, to his credit, sprang up again to put in a dangerous cross.

No doubt next season, Wimbledon will again be substantially more than the sum of *their parts. They had probably* given a little too much in midweek against Liverpool, when they lapsed in the final furlong. They did not run out of steam yesterday. Nor, to their credit, did Sunderland, who did their best, with their severely limited talent and resources, at least to save a *game which might in turn* have been their own salvation.

Waddle: crucial miss

The game was given a frivolous beginning when a blonde young streaker ran on to the ground and performed a series of cartwheels, much to the joy of the 21,000 crowd. Perhaps after after that, anti-climax was inevitable, and anti-climax was what we got.

With all deference to Wimbledon's achievements and Sunderland's sorrow, mediocrity in this Premiership has *largely been the name of the* game.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, B McAllister, A Kimble — N Ardley, V Jones (sub: P Fear, 46min), O Leonhardsen, M Gayle (sub: E Ekoku 71) — J Euell, D Holdsworth
SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): L Perez — J Hall, R Ord, L Howey, M Gray — P Bracewell (sub: C Russell, 76), K Ball, D Williams, C Waddle (sub: A Johnson, 76) — P Stewart, N Quinn (sub: M Bridges, 61)
Referee. D Gallagher

Redknapp's strike fails to lift gloom

Sheffield Wednesday 1
Liverpool 1

By David Maddock

IT WAS the final ignominy for Liverpool in a match that perfectly encapsulated their desperate season. Needing victory to ensure second position in the FA Carling Premiership, and a place in the European Cup, they somehow contrived an almost surreal draw to finish fourth.

Like everything else they have done this season, the draw against Sheffield Wednesday was achieved under dramatic and ultimately disappointing circumstances. Trailing with only seven minutes remaining to a goal from the Wednesday substitute, O'Neill Donaldson, Liverpool were then handed one final chance in a season littered with missed opportunity.

Matt Clarke, *the Wednesday goal*keeper, had only been on the pitch for ten minutes after replacing the injured Kevin Pressman, when the fates conspired to make his debut at least a memorable one. Almost his first act was to collect a through-ball from McManaman, but in doing so he overran his penalty area.

Most referees would deem such an error accidental and merely award the free kick. But not the fastidious David Elleray. He decided to dismiss Clarke and set up what was a quite remarkable final seven minutes. With Pressman already injured, Andy Booth, the Wednesday forward, went in goal.

His first task was to pick the resulting free kick out of the net, placed there by Jamie Redknapp who flighted home a quite beautiful strike in a delicious arc from the 18-yard line.

As Wednesday kicked off there were still six minutes remaining, and a betting man would have placed his life's savings on Liverpool finding the goal that would have at least offered some small consolation for a season that promised so much and delivered ultimately nothing. But Liverpool are perhaps the most frustrating side to watch in the Premiership and failed yet again when it seemed impossible.

They had chances, at least three in the final breathless minutes, but missed them all because of an insistence on being too clever and too premeditated when the situation, *against ten men and with a dodgy* goalkeeper, demanded a direct, blunt approach.

It was a typical Liverpool performance. They had appeared lost in a poor first half when pursuing the direct tactics that Roy Evans, the manager, has favoured in recent weeks. But at half-time he switched back to the more familiar passing methods, and in doing so removed Collymore. It was, perhaps, the definitive comment on his time at Anfield because he will surely be transferred in the summer.

Barnes, his replacement, made an immediate difference and had the 17-year-old Michael Owen accepted one of three straightforward chances, Liverpool would have had their place in the European Cup. Instead they floundered in front of goal, and Wednesday broke swiftly to again expose uncertain *defending* from *the* visitors and snatch an opening goal. It came after 75 minutes when Wright lost control on the edge of his own penalty area to allow Donaldson to steal in and smash a shot from close range past the unprotected James.

The goal was not enough to give Wednesday a Uefa Cup place given results elsewhere, but it was enough to consign Liverpool to a season of frustration and embarrassment and one that will surely ring the changes at Anfield during the summer.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-3-1-2): K Pressman (sub: M Clarke, 73min) — I Nolan, D Walker, D Stefanovic, R Humphreys (sub: O Donaldson, 80) — G Whittingham, P Atherton, M Pembridge — B Carbone — A Booth, D Hirst (sub: S Oakes, 60).
LIVERPOOL (4-3-1-2): D James — B T Kvarme (sub: D Matteo, 46), M Wright, N Ruddock (sub: S Harkness, 15), S I Bjornebye — J McAteer, J Redknapp, M Thomas — S McManaman — S Collymore (sub: J Barnes, 46), M Owen.
Referee: D Elleray

Liverpool left to look back on season full of empty promise

STEVE McMANAMAN

is haunted by a feeling of *déjà vu*

Another season draws to a close and, as painful as it is to reflect, the fact is that at Liverpool we have again failed to fulfil our promise.

What really hurts is that we are here again after another huge disappointment saying that we must do this and that to make the final step to win something. I can remember, I think, that after the Cup Final last season we said much the same thing.

We have finished fourth in the league and managed to get to the semi-finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup and still it hasn't been a good season at all. In fact, when you consider the opportunity we had, it has been an awful one. The league was there to be taken. I don't subscribe to this theory that Manchester United were hopelessly distracted by the European Cup because Juventus head their league and are in the final of the cup. But I do think United were below the standards they have set in recent seasons.

They were not that good this season. And yet they have won the league comfortably and even drew three of their last few games. That is how easy it was for them and that is why there is such a huge sense of frustration at Anfield.

We know the league was winnable and we know that we lost it. There are no excuses, we were not beaten by great sides, we cannot hold our hands up and say there were teams *too good for us. The fact is, we lost* the important games because we played badly.

The irony, in the league, is that Liverpool performed well away from home this season. Our record was quite impressive. But we dropped what you would normally consider to be the banker points at home. Liverpool are usually excellent at ensuring those points, traditionally we are very strong in those games. The frustrating fact is, had we collected those banker points as we should have done, we would be champions now. It was the same in the cup competitions.

In Europe we weren't hammered by a much better side, we played badly and paid the penalty in the first leg of the semi-final in France when it was clear in the second leg that we should have had the beating *of Paris Saint-Germain.*

The domestic competitions were the same. We let ourselves down and that is something we cannot hide from. Our fans demand success and next season we have to deliver it.

There will be some changes to this *Liverpool side in order to achieve* that. We had our opportunity and didn't take it and there could well be three or four new faces brought in next season to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

While I bemoan Liverpool's failings, I don't support the widely held assertion that it is evidence of a drop in quality in the FA Carling Premiership. OK, Manchester United won the title with seven fewer points than last season, but I believe that is because there is a general increase in quality.

The teams at the bottom have benefited from the money generated within football and they have used the revenue to bring in better quality players. Look at Coventry City, West Ham United and Southampton. They have spent a lot of money to improve their squads.

While the sides at the bottom are undoubtedly better, it is harder for the teams at the top to improve by an equal amount, because while they have money available, their squads cannot be bettered so readily. When you already have the top players it is harder to find new ones who will increase standards — especially when all the top sides in Europe are competing for those players. You therefore get a natural narrowing of standards between top and bottom.

But I think the experience of Liverpool and Manchester United in Europe suggests that the top teams are still improving. We should have beaten Paris to reach the final and Manchester United were very unlucky indeed not to reach the final of the European Cup. England could — and should — have had two European finalists and *that is surely a sign of high quality.*

While all that is a defence of English football, I do have one major concern about our game. The influx of foreign players has reached such epidemic proportions that I can hardly think of an English player bought by a Premiership club during the entire season.

There are around 300 foreigners playing in Britain now and, during the summer, I can only see that figure increasing significantly. Where nobody can argue with the purchase of players such as Zola and Juninho, it is worrying that we are also importing so many journeymen.

If English football is to keep improving, then we must import only the best — and keep producing players of the highest quality of our own.

Chelsea ignore loss of Grodas

Everton 1
Chelsea 2

By Nick Szczepanik

DESPITE a late flurry after a Nick Barmby goal, Everton went down to a superb passing display by a Chelsea team who were a man short for most of the match after the dismissal of Frode Grodas, their goalkeeper. "It was an excellent performance," Ruud Gullitt, the Chelsea manager, said. "We created so many chances."

*There was, however, a dis*tinct end-of-term feeling at the former School of Science. There were absences — Unsworth, Short, Phelan, Hinchcliffe, a whole defence. There were departures to think about, too — Dave Watson was relinquishing the role of player-manager and even Goodison Park itself could be on the way out in favour of a new 60,000-seat stadium, according to a document going the rounds. There *were possible new arrivals too* — such as Bobby Robson and Jürgen Klinnsman, who might or might not be joining Everton after the Summer holidays.

Probably not, if anyone sends them a tape of the first hour or so of this game. Chelsea were ahead after only 15 minutes, when Wise's chip from the left drifted over the head of Southall and dropped inside the post. Six minutes later, Ferguson, although looking offside, was allowed to gallop menacingly through only to be brought down by Grodas a yard outside the Chelsea area. Grodas was sent off by Peter Jones, the referee, which in turn meant the departure of Vialli in favour of the substitute keeper, Hitchcock.

Chelsea, however, made light of the disadvantage. Everton pressed, but Chelsea's fast breaks, accurate passing and movement off the ball made the home team look as if they, not the visitors, were outnumbered. It was well deserved when Di Matteo put Chelsea further ahead with a rare header from a cross by Petrescu.

The second half was in danger of turning into a passing exhibition by the FA Cup *finalists, their fans taunt*ing Everton with shouts of "Can we play you every week?" The pre-Wembley stroll only looked likely to be disturbed by a lack of concentration or injury. Hughes was withdrawn as a precaution after a knock on the ankle and Di Matteo's dying swan impersonation raised momentary concern, but he soldiered bravely on, only to miss a superb chance after Petrescu's pass put him through on goal.

It was nearly a costly failure. Within 30 seconds, Barmby scored after Hitchcock had parried Watson's header. The Chelsea defence rocked thereafter whenever the ball was in the air, Hitchcock continually punching uncertainly, but Everton could not find an equaliser; a turn and low shot passed the post by Cada Marteri, a substitute, was as close as they came.

EVERTON (3-1-4-2): N Southall — R Dunne, D Watson, M Ball — E Barrett — M Hottiger, C Thomsen (sub: D Cadamarteri, 46min), G Speed, J Hills — D Ferguson, N Barmby
CHELSEA (4-4-2): F Grodas — F Sinclair, F Leboeuf, S Clarke, S Minto — D Petrescu, E Newton, R Di Matteo (sub: C Burley, 81), D Wise — M Hughes (sub: M Nicholls, 60), G Vialli (sub: K Hitchcock, 21)
Referee. P Jones

مكذا من الاجل

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 **SOUTHAMPTON** (0) 0
Dryden 12 (og) 39,339

Aston Villa: M Bosnich, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, S Staunton, G Southgate, A Townsend, I Taylor, R Scimeca, S Milosevic, D Yorke.

Southampton: M Taylor, J Dodd, F Benali, J Magilton, U van Gobbel, C Lundekvam, R Dryden, M Evans, M Oakley, R Slater, E Ostenstad (sub: M Le Tissier, 72min).

Referee: G Willard.

BLACKBURN (1) 2 **LEICESTER** (1) 4
Flitcroft 25 Heskey 13, 56
Fenton 66 Claridge 55
25,881 Wilson 81

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry (sub: N Marker, 84min), G Le Saux, K Gallacher, G Fenton, W McKinlay (sub: S Ripley, 61min), G Flitcroft, I Pearce, D Duff.

Leicester City: K Keller, M Grayson (sub: J Lawrence, 36min), N Lennon, S Claridge, E Heskey, P Kamark, F Rolling (sub: S Wilson, 75min), S Prior (sub: M Whitlow, 28min), M Elliott, S Guppy, S Campbell.

Referee: S Dunn.

DERBY (1) 1 **ARSENAL** (0) 3
Ward 9 Wright 55, 90
18,287 Bergkamp 82
Sent off: A Adams (Arsenal) 13

Derby County: M Poom, G Rowett, C Powell, D Powell (sub: P Trollope, 45min), R van der Laan, A Asanovic, R Willems (sub: P Simpson, 76min), A Ward, J Laursen, C Daily, P McGrath (sub: L Carsley, 57min).

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, P Vieira (sub: R Parlour, 76min), S Bould, A Adams, E Platt, I Wright, P Merson (sub: N Anelka, 9min), D Bergkamp, M Keown.

Referee: P Durkin.

EVERTON (0) 1 **CHELSEA** (2) 2
Barmby 77 Wise 14
38,321 Di Matteo 36
Sent off: F Grodas (Chelsea) 21

Everton: N Southall, E Barrett, D Watson, R Dunne, M Ball, M Hottiger, C Thomsen (sub: D Cadamarteri, 46min), J Hills, G Speed, N Barmby, D Ferguson.

Chelsea: F Grodas, D Petrescu, F Leboeuf, S Clarke, G Vialli (sub: K Hitchcock, 21min), M Hughes (sub: M Nicholls, 60min), D Wise, R Di Matteo (sub: C Burley, 81min), S Minto, F Sinclair, E Newton.

Booked: Clarke, Petrescu, Sinclair.

Referee: P Jones.

LEEDS (0) 1 **MIDDLESBRO** (0) 1
Deane 77 Juninho 79
38,567

Leeds United: N Martyn, G Kelly, A Dorigo, L Radebe, D Wetherall, L Sharpe, I Rush (sub: R Wallace, 74min), B Deane, L Bowyer, D Lilley, G Halle.

Booked: Radebe.

Middlesbrough: B Roberts, N Pearson, Emerson (sub: C Freestone, 69min), R Mustoe, M Beck, Juninho, C Fleming, C Blackmore (sub: S Vickers, 80min), G Festa, P Stamp, C Hignett (sub: V Kinder, 55min).

Referee: A B Wilkie.

MAN UTD (1) 2 **WEST HAM** (0) 0
Solskjaer 11 55,249
Cruyff 84

Manchester United: P Schmeichel, D Irwin (sub: M Clegg, 45min), D May, E Cantona, N Butt, D Beckham, P Neville, K Poborsky (sub: B McClair, 71min), P Scholes (sub: J Cruyff, 50min), R Johnsen, O G Solskjaer.

Booked: Beckham.

West Ham United: L Miklosko (sub: L Sealey, 89min), S Potts, R Hall, S Bilic, R Ferdinand (sub: M Hughes, 65min), J Moncur, S Lomas, H Porfirio, S Lazaridis, I Dowie, P Kitson.

Booked: Kitson, Porfirio.

Referee: S Lodge.

NEWCASTLE (4) 5 **NOTTM FOREST** (0) 0
Asprilla 20 36,554
Ferdinand 23, 26
Shearer 36
Elliott 77

Newcastle United: P Srnicek, W Barton, J Beresford, S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert (sub: K Gillespie, 68min), D Batty (sub: P Beardsley, 72min), R Elliott, F Asprilla (sub: L Clark, 65min), L Ferdinand, A Shearer.

Nottingham Forest: A Fettis, D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips, S Gemmill, I Woan, G O'Neil (sub: D Saunders, 77min), K Campbell, I Moore, C Bart-Williams (sub: C Allen, 45min).

Referee: M Reed.

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 1 ***LIVERPOOL*** (0) 1
Donaldson 75 Redknapp 83
38,943
Sent off: M Clarke (Sheff Wed) 83

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman (sub: M Clarke, 73min), I Nolan, P Atherton, D Walker, D Stefanovic, G Whittingham, R Humphreys, B Carbone, D Hirst, A Booth (sub: S Oakes, 60), M Pembridge.

Liverpool: D James, B T Kvarme (sub: D Matteo, 46min), J McAteer, M Wright, S McManaman, S Collymore (sub: J Barnes, 45min), J Redknapp, N Ruddock (sub: S Harkness, 18min), M Owen, M Thomas, S I Bjornebye.

Referee: D Elleray.

TOTTENHAM (1) 1 **COVENTRY** (2) 2
McVeigh 44 Dublin 13
33,029 Williams 39

Tottenham Hotspur: E Baardsen, J Edinburgh, R Fox, E Sheringham, J Dozzell, J Scales, P McVeigh (sub: N Fenn, 74min), S Campbell, R Vega, S Carr, A Sinton (sub: J Clapham, 24min).

Booked: Sheringham, Edinburgh.

Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, D Burrows, P Williams, K Richardson, N Whelan (sub: E Jess, 34min), G McAllister, P Telfer, P Ndlovu, D Dublin, D Huckerby.

Booked: Burrows, Richardson, Williams, Whelan.

Referee: M Bodenham.

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 ***SUNDERLAND*** (0) 0
Euell 85 21,339

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones (sub: P Fear, 45min), O Leonhardsen, D Holdsworth, M Gayle (sub: E Ekoku, 66min), C Perry, B McAllister, N Ardley, J Euell.

Sunderland: L Perez, P Bracewell (sub: C Russell, 72min), K Ball, M Gray, R Ord, P Stewart, J Hall, L Howey, N Quinn (sub: M Bridges, 59min), D Williams, C Waddle (sub: A Johnston, 72min).

Referee: D Gallagher.

Shearer: scored for Newcastle

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	*Cup*	*Euro*	*Total*
R Fowler (Liverpool)	18	6	7	31
F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)	16	15	0	31
I Wright (Arsenal)	23	5	2	30
A Shearer (Newcastle)	25	2	1	28
L Ferdinand (Newcastle)	16	1	4	21
D Yorke (Aston Villa)	17	3	0	20
O G Solskjaer (Man Utd)	18	0	1	19
*M Evans (Southampton)	16	3	0	19
M Le Tissier (Southampton)	13	3	0	16
S Collymore (Liverpool)	12	2	2	16
S Claridge (Leicester)	12	3	0	15
Juninho (Middlesbrough)	12	3	0	15

*16 for Plymouth

ROLL OF HONOUR

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Champions: Manchester United. **Runners-Up:** Newcastle United. **Uefa Cup place:** Arsenal, Liverpool and Aston Villa. **Relegated:** Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Champions: Bolton. **Promoted:** Barnsley. **Play-off for third promotion place between:** Wolverhampton, Ipswich, Sheffield United or Crystal Palace. **Relegated:** Southend, Oldham, Grimsby. **Second division: Champions:** Bury. **Promoted:** Stockport. **Play-off place:** Luton, Brentford, Bristol City or Crewe. **Relegated:** Peterborough, Shrewsbury, Rotherham and Notts County. **Third division: Champions:** Wigan. **Promoted:** Fulham and Carlisle. *Play-off place:* Northampton, Swansea, Chester or Cardiff. **Relegated:** Hereford.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Champions: Macclesfield.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Champions: Rangers. **Relegated:** Raith Rovers. **First division: Champions:** St Johnstone. **Play-off place:** Hibernian or Airdrie. **Relegated:** Clydebank and East Fife. **Second division: Champions:** Ayr. **Promoted:** Hamilton. **Relegated:** Dumbarton and Berwick. *Third division: Champions:* Inverness CT.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Man Utd	38	12	5	2	38	17	9	7	3	38	27	75	+32
2 Newcastle	38	13	3	3	54	20	6	8	5	19	20	68	+33
3 Arsenal	38	10	5	4	36	18	9	6	4	26	14	68	+30
4 Liverpool	38	10	6	3	38	19	9	5	5	24	18	68	+25
5 A Villa	38	11	5	3	27	13	6	5	8	20	21	61	+13
6 Chelsea	38	9	8	2	33	22	7	3	9	25	33	59	+3
7 Sheff Wed	38	8	10	1	25	16	6	5	8	25	35	57	-1
8 Wimbledon	38	9	6	4	28	21	6	5	8	21	25	56	+3
9 Leicester	38	7	5	7	22	26	5	6	8	24	28	47	-8
10 Tottenham	38	8	4	7	19	17	5	3	11	25	34	46	-7
11 Leeds	38	7	7	5	15	13	4	6	9	13	25	46	-10
12 Derby	38	8	6	5	25	22	3	7	9	20	36	46	-13
13 Blackburn	38	8	4	7	28	23	1	11	7	14	20	42	-1
14 West Ham	38	7	6	6	27	25	3	6	10	12	23	42	-9
15 Everton	38	7	4	8	24	22	3	8	8	20	35	42	-13
16 Southmptn	38	6	7	6	32	24	4	4	11	18	32	41	-6
17 Coventry	38	4	8	7	19	23	5	6	8	19	31	41	-16
18 Sunderland	38	7	6	6	20	18	3	4	12	15	35	40	-18
19 Middlesbro	38	8	5	6	34	25	2	7	10	17	35	39	-9
20 Nottm F	38	3	9	7	15	27	3	7	9	16	32	34	-28

†Middlesbrough have been deducted three points

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Rangers	36	13	2	3	44	16	12	3	3	41	17	80	+52
2 Celtic	36	14	2	2	48	9	9	4	5	30	28	75	+46
3 Dundee Utd	36	10	4	4	21	10	7	5	6	25	23	60	+13
4 Hearts	36	8	6	4	27	20	6	4	8	19	23	52	+3
5 Dunfrmline	36	8	4	6	32	30	4	5	9	20	35	45	-13
6 Aberdeen	36	6	8	4	25	19	4	6	8	20	35	44	-9
7 Kilmarnck	36	8	4	6	28	26	3	2	13	13	35	39	-20
8 Motherwll	36	5	5	8	24	28	4	6	8	20	30	38	-11
9 Hibernian	36	6	4	8	18	25	3	7	8	20	30	38	-17
10 Raith	36	3	5	10	18	39	3	2	13	11	34	25	-44

[illegible]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 St Johnstn	36	12	5	1	37	10	12	3	3	37	13	80	+51
2 Airdrie	36	6	7	5	26	19	9	8	1	30	15	60	+22
3 Dundee	36	10	3	5	26	14	5	10	3	21	19	58	+14
4 St Mirren	36	12	0	6	28	21	5	7	6	20	20	58	+7
5 Falkirk	36	8	7	3	28	20	7	2	9	14	19	54	+3
6 Partick	36	6	8	4	24	21	6	4	8	25	27	48	+1
7 Stirling	36	8	3	7	27	25	4	7	7	27	36	46	-7
8 G Morton	36	6	7	5	20	19	6	2	10	22	22	45	+1
9 Clydebank	36	6	4	8	19	24	1	3	14	12	35	28	-28
10 East Fife	36	1	5	12	15	48	1	3	14	13	44	14	-64

[illegible]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Ayr	36	12	3	3	32	16	11	5	2	29	17	77	+28
2 Hamilton	36	11	5	2	47	17	11	3	4	28	11	74	+47
3 Livingston	36	11	3	4	32	18	7	7	4	24	20	64	+18
4 Clyde	36	8	4	6	21	18	6	6	6	21	21	52	+3
5 Queen Of S	36	8	3	7	27	27	5	5	8	28	30	47	-2
6 Stenhsmuir	36	4	6	8	19	23	7	5	6	30	20	44	+6
7 Brechin	36	5	7	6	18	22	5	4	9	18	27	41	-13
8 Stranraer	36	6	5	7	17	18	3	4	11	12	33	36	-22
9 Dumbarton	36	2	7	9	21	35	7	1	10	23	31	35	-22
10 Berwick	36	4	4	10	15	36	0	7	11	17	39	23	-43

[illegible]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
		HOME					AWAY						
1 Inverness CT	36	13	3	2	37	19	10	4	4	33	18	76	+33
2 Forfar	36	10	5	3	35	19	9	5	4	39	26	67	+29
3 Ross Co	36	10	4	4	33	22	10	3	5	25	19	67	+17
4 Alloa	36	9	4	5	24	21	7	3	8	26	26	55	+3
5 Albion	36	8	4	6	27	22	5	6	7	23	25	49	+3
6 Montrose	36	8	5	7	19	27	6	2	10	27	35	43	-16
7 Cowdnbth	36	6	6	6	22	23	4	3	11	16	28	39	-13
8 Queen's Pk	36	7	3	8	27	29	2	6	10	19	30	36	-13
9 East Stirling	36	6	4	8	21	29	2	5	11	15	29	33	-22
10 Arbroath	36	4	6	8	18	25	2	7	9	13	27	31	-21

FIRST DIVISION

Play offs

Semi-finals, first leg

C PALACE (0) 3 **WOLVRHMPTN** (0) 1
Shipperley 68 Smith 90
Freedman 89, 90 21,053

SHEFF UTD (1) 1 **IPSWICH** (0) 1
Fjortoft 41 Stockwell 78
22,512

SECOND DIVISION

Play offs

Semi-finals, first leg

BRISTOL CITY (1) 1 **BRENTFORD** (2) 2
Owers 29 Smith 13,
15,581 Taylor 30
Sent off: C Asaba (Brentford) 85

CREWE (0) 2 **LUTON** (1) 1
Rivers 53 Oldfield 3
Little 68 5,467
Sent off: J James (Luton) 59

THIRD DIVISION

Play offs

Semi-finals, first leg

CARDIFF (0) 0 ***NORTHMPTN*** (0) 1
11,369 Parrish 77
Sent off: M Cooper (Northmptn) 70

CHESTER (0) 0 **SWANSEA** (0) 0
5,104

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bologna 2 Cagliari 0, Fiorentina 2 Udinese 3, Lazio 4 Perugia 1, Milan 3 Reggiana 1, Napoli 1 Roma 0, Parma 3 Vicenza 0, Piacenza 3 Atalanta 1, Sampdoria 1 Inter 2, Verona 0 Juventus 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	30	16	11	3	43	19	59
Parma	30	16	7	7	36	23	55
Internazionale	30	12	12	5	42	29	51
Lazio	30	13	8	9	42	29	47
Bologna	30	13	8	9	47	36	47
Sampdoria	30	12	9	9	50	41	45
Udinese	30	12	9	9	43	37	45
Vicenza	30	11	9	10	40	36	42
Milan	30	11	8	11	40	29	41
Fiorentina	30	9	13	8	39	34	40
Atalanta	30	10	9	11	39	40	39
Roma	30	9	10	11	41	41	37
Napoli	30	8	13	9	31	37	37
Piacenza	30	6	15	9	25	35	33
Cagliari	30	7	9	14	36	49	30
Perugia	30	7	7	16	35	58	28
Verona	30	6	8	16	35	54	26
Reggiana	30	2	13	15	26	54	19

SPANISH LEAGUE: Barcelona 1 Real Madrid 0, [illegible] 4 Extremadura 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	37	24	11	2	76	[illegible]	83
Barcelona	37	24	6	7	92	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deportivo	36	20	12	4	55	26	72
Betis	36	20	12	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Atletico Madrid	36	17	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	37	16	10	11	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Athletic Bilbao	36	12	16	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Real Sociedad	36	14	8	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tenerife	36	14	8	13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Valencia	36	12	[illegible]	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Racing Santander	36	[illegible]	14	11	[illegible]	41	[illegible]
Celta Vigo	36	10	13	13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Compostela	36	10	12	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Espanyol	36	11	[illegible]	16	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oviedo	36	11	[illegible]	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zaragoza	36	9	13	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Extremadura	37	10	10	17	31	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rayo Vallecano	36	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sporting Gijon	36	9	9	18	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hercules Alicante	36	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sevilla	36	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Logrones	36	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GERMAN LEAGUE: Werder Bremen 3 Cologne [illegible], [illegible] 0 Hansa Rostock [illegible], Karlsruhe [illegible], Borussia Dortmund [illegible], Borussia Moenchengladbach [illegible], Bochum [illegible], VfB Stuttgart [illegible], Bayern Munich 0 Freiburg [illegible], Arminia Bielefeld [illegible], 1860 Munich [illegible], Schalke 04 [illegible]

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	31	19	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bayer Leverkusen	31	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VfB Stuttgart	31	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
B Dortmund	31	[illegible]	6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VfL Bochum	31	13	11	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1860 Munich	31	12	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Karlsruhe	31	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Werder Bremen	31	12	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Arminia Bielefeld	31	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Schalke 04	31	[illegible]	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	31	[illegible]	[illegible]	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	31	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	31	[illegible]	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	31	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

DUTCH LEAGUE: [illegible]

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	31	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Feyenoord	31	[illegible]	7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Twente Enschede	31	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ajax Amsterdam	31	[illegible]	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	27	[illegible]
Vitesse Arnhem	31	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Heerenveen	31	[illegible]	11	[illegible]	[illegible]	35	[illegible]
Roda JC	[illegible]	14	[illegible]	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NAC Breda	31	[illegible]	[illegible]	11	39	[illegible]	39
Sparta Rotterdam	31	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	35

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: [illegible]

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	29	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sporting	29	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Benfica	29	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Braga	29	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Salgueiros	29	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Guimaraes	29	[illegible]	6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Estrela Amadora	29	11	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boavista	29	[illegible]	13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	29	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Charleroi 2 [illegible], [illegible] 4 [illegible] 2, FC [illegible] 0 Lommel [illegible], RWD Molenbeek 1 Antwerp 2, Standard Liege 2 Ghent 0, [illegible] 4 [illegible] 1, [illegible] 4 Anderlecht 1, Aalst 2 Lokeren 0

FRENCH CUP: Final: [illegible]

WORLD CUP: Asian zone. Group eight: [illegible]. Group nine: [illegible]

PREMIER DIVISION

CELTIC (1) 3 **DUNDEE UTD** (0) 0
Cadete 11 46,758
Hay 85
Johnson 88

HEARTS (0) 3 **RANGERS** (0) 1
Cameron 80 McInnes 81
Robertson 82 (pen), 86 13,097

KILMARNCK (0) 1 **ABERDEEN** (1) 1
Holt 73 Dodds 34
10,027

MOTHERWLL (1) 2 **DUNFRLNE** (1) 2
Weir 32 French 38
Van Der Gaag 73 Bingham 59
9,676

RAITH (1) 1 **HIBERNIAN** (1) 1
Duffield 7 McGinlay 26
6,274

FIRST DIVISION

AIRDRIE (0) 0 **ST JOHNSTN** (0) 1
1,977 Colquhoun 52

CLYDEBANK (0) 0 ***EAST FIFE*** (0) 4
267 Gibb 45
Allan 45
Dyer 87
Cusack 88

DUNDEE (2) 4 **STIRLING** (0) 2
Annand 18 Bennett 75 (pen), 87 (pen)
Raeside 23 2,089
O'Driscoll 68
Tait 86 (og)

FALKIRK (1) 3 **G MORTON** (0) 0
McGrillen 23 2,018
James 46
Fellner 79

ST MIRREN (2) 2 **PARTICK** (0) 0
Watson 11 (og) 2,800
Munroe 25

SECOND DIVISION

BERWICK (0) 0 **AYR** (2) 2
1,423 Scott 44
Horace 45

BRECHIN (0) 0 **DUMBARTON** (2) 3
620 Glancy 11, 73
Reilly 39

HAMILTON (0) 0 **LIVINGSTON** (0) 0
825

QUEEN OF SOUTH (0) 0 ***CLYDE*** (0) 1
1,819 Gibson 72

STRANRAER (0) 2 **STENHOUSEMUIR** (0) 1
McGeachie 71 (og) Stewart 69
McCaffrey 78 356

THIRD DIVISION

ALLOA (1) 1 **INVERNESS CT** (0) 0
Pew 14 567

COWDNBTH (0) 0 **ALBION** (0) 0
155

EAST STIRLING (1) 3 **ARBROATH** (0) 0
Neill 17 (pen) 253
Inglis 56
Muirhead 72

FORFAR (2) 4 **QUEEN'S PARK** (0) 0
[illegible] 20 (og), 89 (og) 1,155
[illegible] 31 (pen)
Honeyman 60

ROSS CO (0) 3 ***MONTROSE*** (1) 1
Adams 72, 77 *McGlashan 34*
MacLeod 86 2,144

GOALSCORERS

PREMIER DIVISION 33: Cadete (Celtic) **23:** Dodds (Aberdeen) **20:** Laudrup (Rangers), McCoist (Rangers) **19:** Robertson (Hearts) **17:** Wright (Kilmarnock), Gascoigne (Rangers) **16:** Windass (Aberdeen) **15:** Britton (Dunfermline), Di Canio (Celtic).

FIRST DIVISION 26: Annand (Dundee) **24:** [illegible] (Clydebank), Grant (St Johnstone) **16:** O'Boyle (St Johnstone) **15:** Yardley (St Mirren) **14:** Scott (St Johnstone).

SECOND DIVISION 34: Ritchie (Hamilton) **16:** [illegible] (Ayr) **15:** Harvey (Livingston), Little (Stenhousemuir), Mallan (Queen of South).

THIRD DIVISION 29: Stewart (Inverness CT) **23:** Adams (Ross County) **18:** [illegible] (Alloa).

NON LEAGUE

FA CARLSBERG VASE

Final

NORTH FERRIBY (0) 0 ***WHITBY*** (1) 3
11,098 Logan 21
Williams 61
Toman 75
(at Wembley)

GILBERT LEAGUE: League Cup. Final: Bangor City 2 Barry 2 (aet, 1-1 after 90min, at Aberystwyth Town FC)

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE. *Premier division:* Brentwood 0 Burnham Ramblers 2, East Ham 2 Ilford 5, Hullbridge Sports 4 Concord 2.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE. Premier division: Arlesey 4 Welwyn Garden 2, Buckingham Athletic 2 Royston 2.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES: Premier division: Ashford 4 Corinthian Casuals 6, Reading 2 [illegible] 1, Sandhurst 1 Netherne 2.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division League Cup Final: Wednesfield 4 Westfields 0.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division. Crockenhill 2 Sheppey 1, Cray 2 Thamesmead 2, Furness 5 Canterbury 1, Greenwich 2 Whitstable 2, Herne Bay 4 Crockenhill 0, Lordswood 1 Beckenham 1.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: First division Cup. Final. Ardley United 2 Harrow Hill 2 (aet, 1-1 after 90min; Ardley United win 4-2 on pens).

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION Premier division: [illegible] 4 [illegible] 1, Coleshill 2 Worcester 0, [illegible] 2 [illegible] 1, [illegible] 3 [illegible] 1, [illegible] 3 [illegible] 2, [illegible] 3. **Cup: Final: Postponed:** [illegible]

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: [illegible] 2 [illegible] 1, [illegible] 1, [illegible] 1, Maine Road 4 Nantwich 1.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Leeds 2 Stoke 1.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Highland League 1 FAI (at Ross County FC).

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE. First division. Charlton Ath 3 Watford 3, Southend United 0 Norwich City 1. **Second division.** Bournemouth 4 Bristol City 3.

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn OE 3 Old Aloysians 2, Old Ignatians 3 C Manning OB 3, Old Tenisonians 1 Old [illegible] 1.

Paul Sharp, the North Ferriby United goalkeeper, fails to clear and so allows Andy Toman, of Whitby Town, the chance to complete their 3-0 win in the FA Carlsberg Vase final at Wembley on Saturday. Report, page 31

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

CRICKET

Benson and Hedges Cup
(11.0; 50 overs)

Group A
DERBY: Derbyshire v Warwickshire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Worcestershire
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Minor Counties

Group B
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Leicestershire
GLASGOW (Grange CC): Scotland v Nottinghamshire

Group C
THE PARKS: British Universities v Hampshire
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Kent
THE OVAL: Surrey v Sussex

Group D
DOWNPATRICK: Ireland v Essex
LORD'S: Middlesex v Somerset

BAIN HOGG INSURANCE TROPHY (one day): **Portsmouth:** Hampshire v Somerset. **Urmston:** Lancashire v Durham. **The Oval:** Surrey v MCC Young Cricketers. **Leamington:** Warwickshire v Middlesex.

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: League Cup: Tottenham v [illegible] (at White Hart Lane)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Liverpool v Everton

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Thamesmead v Herne Bay.

OTHER SPORT

RACING: [illegible]

SPEEDWAY: World championship: British semi-final (at Exeter, 7.30). Elite League: Wolverhampton v [illegible] (7.30). **Premier League Cup:** Reading v Oxford (7.30).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

UEFA UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP: Intermediary round, second leg: [illegible]

RUGBY LEAGUE

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: France v [illegible]

OTHER SPORT

RACING: [illegible]

WEDNESDAY

CRICKET

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of four). **Chelmsford:** Essex v Durham. **Southampton:** Hampshire v Leicestershire. **Canterbury:** Kent v Glamorgan. **Old Trafford:** Lancashire v Nottinghamshire. **Lord's:** Middlesex v Derbyshire. **Taunton:** Somerset v Sussex. **The Oval:** Surrey v Gloucestershire. **Edgbaston:** Warwickshire v Yorkshire.

UNIVERSITY MATCHES (first day of three): **Fenner's.** Cambridge University v Northamptonshire. **The Parks.** Oxford University v Worcestershire.

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket match

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Final: Barcelona v Paris Saint-Germain (at Feyenoord Stadium, Rotterdam)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Play-offs: First division: Semi-finals, second leg: Ipswich (1) v Sheffield United (1) (7.45); * Wolverhampton (1) v Crystal Palace (3) (7.45). **Second division: Semi-finals, second leg:** * Brentford (2) v Bristol City (1) (7.45); * Luton (1) v Crewe (2) (7.45). **Third division: Semi-finals, second leg:** Northampton (1) v Cardiff (0) (7.45); * Swansea (0) v Chester (0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION: Bramley v Prescot Panthers (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Royal Windsor Horse Show

GOLF: Men's international: Sweden v Scotland (at Kristinstad)

RACING: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.15); York (2.05); Hereford (1.55); Huntingdon (6.05); Perth (6.20)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: King's Lynn v Belle Vue (7.45), Poole v Wolverhampton (7.30). **Premier League:** Hull v Arena Essex (7.30), Long Eaton v Edinburgh (7.45)

THURSDAY

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH (one day): **Arundel.** Duke of Norfolk's XI v Australians

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: British light-welterweight championship. Andy Holligan (Liverpool, holder) v Carl Wright (Liverpool). **British flyweight championship.** Adey Lewis (Bury, holder) v Peter Culshaw (Liverpool) (at Everton Park Sports Centre, Liverpool).

EQUESTRIANISM: Royal Windsor Horse Show

GOLF: English Open (at Hanbury Manor); WPGA Tour Players' Classic (at Macclesfield); Men's international: Sweden v Scotland (at Kristinstad)

RACING: Salisbury (2.15); York (2.05); Perth (1.55)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Ipswich v Poole (7.30); **World championship:** British semi-final (at Sheffield, 7.45)

FRIDAY

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: St Helens Broncos v London (7.30). **Second division:** Lancashire Lynx v Hunslet Hawks (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Royal Windsor Horse Show.

GOLF. English Open (at Hanbury Manor); WPGA Tour Players' Classic (at Macclesfield); Irish Seniors Open (at St Margaret's Dublin). Brabazon Trophy English amateur strokeplay championship (at Saunton, Devon)

RACING: Newbury (2.10); Newmarket (2.0); Thirsk (2.15); Aintree (5.45); Folkestone (5.50); Stafford (6.0)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Peterborough v King's Lynn (7.30). **Premier League Cup:** Arena Essex v Reading (8.0); Edinburgh v Glasgow (7.30). **Amateur League:** Belle Vue v Exeter and Newport (7.30); Peterborough v Oxford (7.0)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Final: Chelsea v Middlesbrough (at *Wembley*, 3.0)

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH (one day): ***Northampton:*** Northamptonshire v Australians

UNIVERSITY MATCH (one day): **Fenner's:** Cambridge University v Oxford University

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: Third division: Harrogate v Liverpool St Helens, *Morley v Walsall, Reading v Exeter,* Rosslyn Park v Wharfedale. **Fourth division north:** Sheffield v Aspatria.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Paris Saint-Germain v Sheffield Eagles (at Bondoufle Stadium, Evry, 7.0)

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WLAF): Barcelona v London Monarchs (7.30)

EQUESTRIANISM: Royal Windsor Horse Show

GOLF: English Open (at Hanbury Manor), WPGA Tour Players' Classic (at Macclesfield); Irish Seniors Open (at St Margaret's Dublin); Brabazon Trophy English amateur strokeplay championship (at Saunton, Devon).

RACING: Lingfield Park (6.0); Hamilton Park (6.15); Newbury (2.0); Nottingham (2.25); *Bangor (11.50)*

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Eastbourne v Poole (7.30). **Premier League Cup:** Stoke v Edinburgh (7.30). **Amateur League:** Berwick v Lathallan (7.0); Berwick v Long Eaton and Wolverhampton (8.30), Swindon and Reading v Belle Vue (at Swindon, 7.30).

SUNDAY

CRICKET

AXA LIFE LEAGUE (40 overs): **Chelmsford:** Essex v Durham; **Southampton:** Hampshire v Leicestershire; **Canterbury:** Kent v Glamorgan; **Old Trafford:** Lancashire v Nottinghamshire; **Lord's:** Middlesex v Derbyshire; **Taunton:** Somerset v Sussex; **The Oval:** Surrey v Gloucestershire; **Edgbaston:** Warwickshire v Yorkshire.

TOUR MATCH (one day): **Worcester:** Worcestershire v Australians.

FOOTBALL

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Play-off, first leg: Hibs v Airdrie (3.0).

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Final: Dagenham and Redbridge v Woking (at Wembley, 3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford Tigers v Salford Reds (3.30); Halifax Blue Sox v Wigan Warriors; Oldham Bears v Leeds Rhinos; Warrington Wolves v Bradford Bulls (6.35). **First division:** Hull Kingston Rovers v Dewsbury Rams; Keighley Cougars v Huddersfield Giants; Swinton Lions v Featherstone Rovers; Whitehaven Warriors v Wakefield Trinity (3.30); Widnes Vikings v Hull. **Second division:** Barrow Braves v Leigh Centurions; Batley Bulldogs v Carlisle Border Raiders (3.15), Doncaster Dragons v Rochdale Hornets; York Wasps v Bramley

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WLAF): Scottish Claymores v Amsterdam (at Murrayfield, 3.0)

EQUESTRIANISM: Royal Windsor Horse Show

GOLF: English Open (at Hanbury Manor); WPGA Tour Players' Classic (at Macclesfield); Irish Seniors Open (at St Margaret's *Dublin*); Brabazon Trophy English amateur strokeplay championship (at Saunton, Devon)

MOTOR RACING: British touring car championship (at Brand's Hatch); British formula three championship (at Croft).

RACING: Newbury (2.0); Ripon (2.15); Fakenham (2.20).

AUSTRALIAN POOLS CHECK

VICTORIA: Second division: [illegible] **Third division:** [illegible] **Fourth division:** [illegible] Moreland 0 Williamstown 0, Seaford Utd 2 Sunbury 0, Stonnington 1 Monbulk 0, Sun Heights 3 Geelong R 0. **Fifth division.** Brandon Pk 1 Glenroy 3, Endeavour 3 Croydon 0, Lyndale 0 0 S Wantirna 1, Mitcham 3, Ballarat 3, N Sunshine 1 Springvale C 1

WESTERN AUSTRALIA. Premier division. Athena 4 Joondalup 0, Knights 7 Inglewood 3, Perth 1 Spearwood 5; Sorrento 2 Bayswater 0, Stirling M 2 Kingsway 0, Swan I C 2 Morley 0. **First division.** Ashfield 8 Balcatta 0, Bassendean 2 Swing 5 0, Cockburn 1 Queens Pk 0, Perth City 2 North Lake 0, Rockingham 2 Balga 0, Southside 2 Wanneroo 3 University W A 1 Leeming 2

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Premier League Adelaide R 4 W T Birkalla 3; Blue Eagles 3 Campb'town 0; Port Lion 2 Olympians 2; Woodville 0 Salisbury 0. **First division:** Croydon 2 Cumberland 0; Elizabeth 3 *Enfield 0;* Para Hills 5 Noarlunga 0; Plympton 3 Adelaide City 6; Seaford 1 Modbury 2; W Adelaide 1 Port Pirie 2.

NEW SOUTH WALES: Second division: Mt Druitt 6 Concord 0; Parramatta 1 Dulwich Hill 4. Third division: Hawkesbury 2 Prospect 2; Pennwood 0 Glebe 2.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
[illegible]	[illegible]	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	3	3	3	2	2	[illegible]	2	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	3	2	1	1	3	1	3	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	2	1	[illegible]	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	1
[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	1	1	1	[illegible]	3	3	[illegible]	1	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	[illegible]	1	1	[illegible]	3	1

FORECASTS: Half-time: Claims by telephone invited for 22pts — although winnings sent automatically — forecast is good: six score draws and 12 no-score draws. Full-time: Claims by telephone invited for 22pts — although winnings sent automatically — forecast is very good: six score draws and four no-score draws.

Crewe punish James's errors

By Our Sports Staff

THERE remains something unutterably cruel about the play-offs. At the end of a long, hard season, when the journeymen of the Nationwide League are thinking about a well-earned break on a Costa or a Canary island, a select few are ordered to strain their hamstrings for a few weeks more in pursuit of Wembley and promotion. Having failed to go up once, most get to fail all over again. Heartbreaking.

It is even worse when you would have been promoted if the dreaded play-offs had not existed in the first place. Luton Town, for example, would be contemplating visits to the City Ground, St Andrews, Maine Road, the Riverside Stadium and the rest if it was simply the top three in the Nationwide League second division who claimed the three available places in the first. Instead, after losing 2-1 at Crewe Alexandra in the first leg of the second division semi-finals yesterday, they are wondering whether they may even reach Wembley and the final at all.

They started well enough, but after Oldfield had given them a third-minute lead, punishing a Kearton fumble in the Crewe goal, it all went horribly wrong. James gifted a goal to Rivers at the start of the second half and then fouled the same player to earn a red card. Reduced to ten men, Luton could not keep Crewe at bay and Little made it 2-1 with Feuer, the Luton goalkeeper, stranded — his first goal, incidentally, since the play-offs last season.

Had Adebola, the Crewe forward, made it 3-1 instead of hitting a post ten minutes from the end, Luton would be all but out already; instead, they need to improve in the second leg at Kenilworth Road. And Crewe finished sixth this season, with 73 points and a goal difference of plus nine compared with Luton's 78 and plus 26 — the best in the division.

Brentford can afford to be more confident after a 2-1 win away to Bristol City. Smith gave them a thirteenth-minute lead. Owers equalised only for Taylor to restore the visitors' advantage before half-time. Only the dismissal of Asaba, their leading scorer, for a second yellow card offence five minutes from time took the gloss off Brentford's day, but Dave Webb, their manager, was not about to issue a note of unneccesary caution: "If we play with today's spirit, we will get to Wembley," he said.

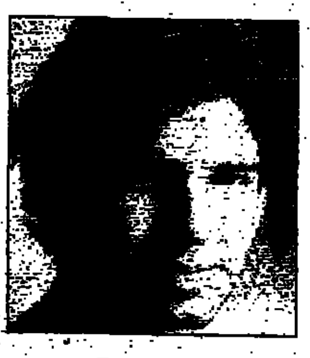
There was yet another dismissal in the third division encounter between Cardiff City and Northampton Town, illustrating yet again the tension that overrides all else in the play-offs. Cooper, the Northampton midfield player, made his early exit after 70 minutes at Ninian Park for violent conduct, courtesy of an errant elbow colliding with Perry, of Cardiff, at a throw-in. Not that Northampton were worried. A virtuoso goal from Parrish seven minutes later, after he collected a loose ball just inside his own half and ran straight through the middle before lobbing the goalkeeper from just outside the penalty area, gave them a 1-0 win.

In the other third division semi-final at the Deva Stadium, neither Chester City nor Swansea City could score, giving Swansea, perhaps, a slight edge for the return at Vetch Field.

Barcelona coach faces uncertain future despite momentous victory

Robson's pride may not prevent his fall

OLIVER HOLT



Football Correspondent

The well-heeled supporters in their sharp suits clapped him when he walked in to the hotel bar. The women stared through the whorls of cigar smoke, a waiter brought him an orange juice and, at the bar, two or three more started chanting his name.

Lean and hungry men, the type who have called for his head and waved their white handkerchiefs as a sign of disrespect, fawned over Bobby Robson and asked to have their pictures taken with him. He indulged them, then made his way to where his son, Mark, was sitting quietly with a group of friends from England.

The city could have been Bobby Robson's on Saturday night. His Barcelona team had just beaten Real Madrid in a match that is almost as important to their fanatical supporters as the championship itself. Yet Robson seemed curiously deflated. Sunken-eyed and robbed suddenly of the adrenalin that had so invigorated him in the build-up to victory, he chatted for 15 minutes or so. When midnight had gone, he pressed some hands into his and left.

He said that he was elated, that there was euphoria welling up within him, that he was proud of what his players had achieved when they struck such a great blow for Barcelona's pride with the 1-0 win in front of 115,000 in the Nou Camp, a victory that cut Real's lead to a more respectable five points. Outwardly, though, he seemed subdued by a deep melancholy that went beyond the normal reaction to 90 minutes of living on his nerves in one of the most high-pressure matches of his career. The devil-may-care attitude that he had adopted had been replaced with a great weariness.

Part of it was relief. He knew how much ridicule, how much bile, would have been heaped upon him if Real had managed to beat Barcelona in the Nou Camp for the first time in 14 years. "If we had lost here today," he said, "they would have been sticking knives in me now."

The rest of it, though, was a mixture of exhaustion at the treatment he has had from the club president, Josep Lluis Núñez — treatment that Robson is too honourable to call dishonourable — and a creeping realisation of the terrible beauty of a club that he may be forced to leave.

Barcelona has been like a siren's song for Robson, a job of almost mystical allure. Despite all his success this season — the fact that he has taken Barcelona to the Cup Winners' Cup final in Rotterdam and the Spanish Cup final, and that the Catalan club has beaten Real in two of the four league and cup games they have played this season and lost only once — the strong suspicion is still that he will be replaced when the season ends next month.

Persistent rumours and muttered half-admissions from club officials say that Louis van Gaal, the outgoing Ajax coach, will join the club soon, but when Robson asks Núñez for clarification of his position, whether the second year of his two-year contract will be honoured, he is fobbed off with glib assurances.

After the game on Saturday night, a female Dutch journalist tried to grill him about his future, about his relationship with Núñez and whether he had grown exasperated. "I think she must have been Louis van Gaal's brother," Robson said when she finally took her leave.

"This is a wonderful club, a fantastic club, but football is a strange game and this is a strange club. They are talking about a new management structure here, they have that in their head. They should discuss it with me and I will tell them about structure.

"I do not fight Núñez. I do not have dinner with him. I do not go on holiday with him. I just spoke to him for five minutes after the game and he is very happy, as we all are. We are all proud of the players and the effort they put in tonight."

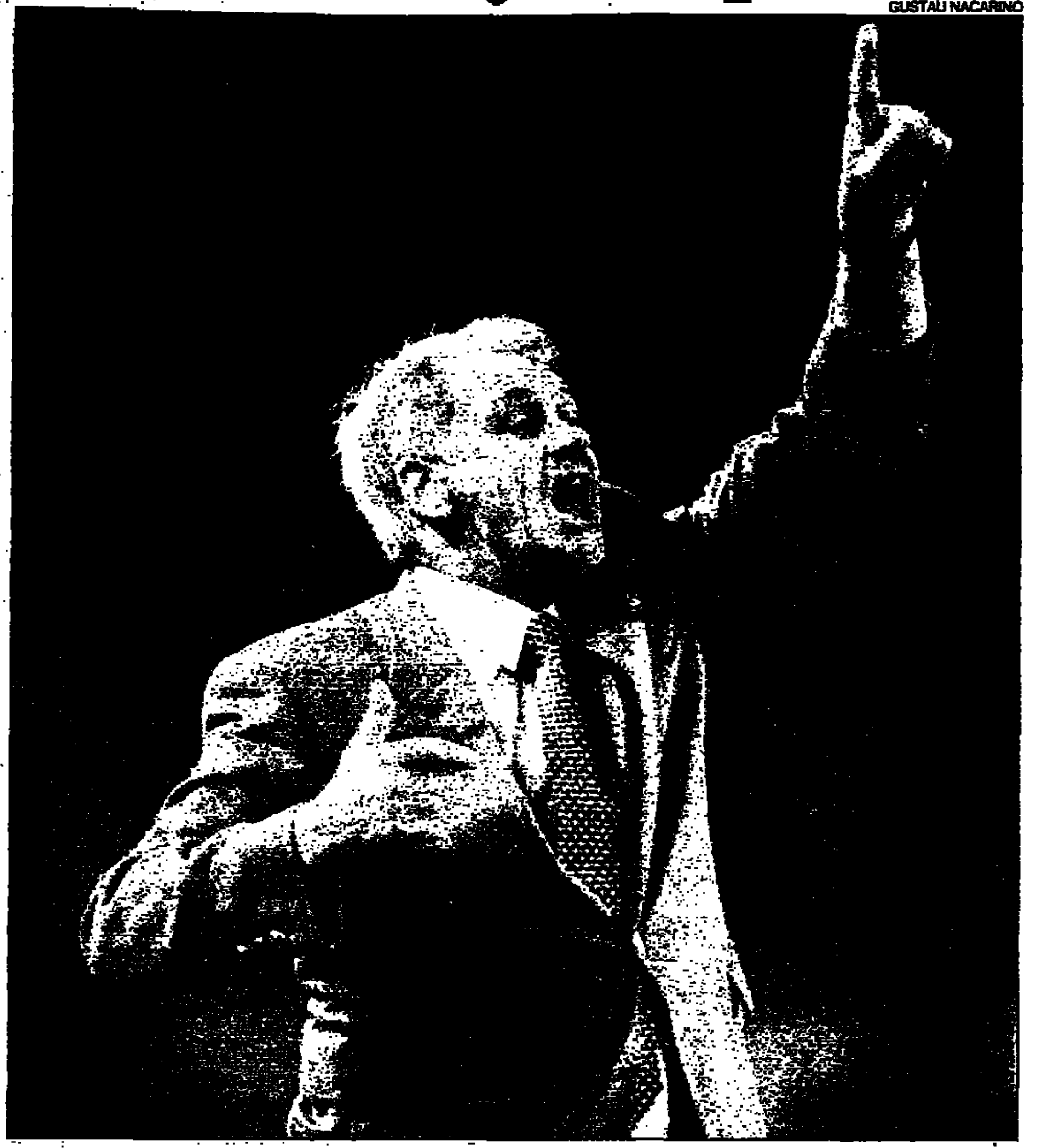
Robson's position, which at any rational club would not just be safe but under lock and key, may become clearer, and probably bleaker, after the match in Rotterdam on Wednesday, when Núñez may dispense with pretence. Victory over Paris Saint-Germain, though, would make it harder for Núñez to be disloyal to the man who stayed loyal to him in the face of a fairy-tale offer from Newcastle United. Everton and their chairman, Peter Johnson, are waiting anxiously in the wings, a haven in the storm, but, despite everything, anything else pales besides Barcelona for Robson. After Saturday night, the pride, the passion, the sound, the fury, it was easy to see why.

It was theatre, raw and unrehearsed, full of hate and vitriol and the worst kind of racism towards Roberto Carlos, the Real left back. Real took the field first, to a howling, wailing cacophony of boos and had the temerity to run to the centre circle and wave to the crowd. When Barcelona appeared, a sea of red-and-blue flags, for Catalonia, were raised. The roars increased when first Giovanni, then Nadal, were carried from the pitch after fierce tackles by Roberto Carlos. The fans showed their displeasure by ripping the poles from their flags and hurling them on to the pitch.

The match was not a classic. It was too important for that. But in the speed and power of the world's best footballer, Ronaldo, the running and quick-thinking of Figo on the left flank and, above all, the artistry and exuberance of De la Peña in midfield, there were glimpses of the stimulation that Robson gets from coaching this team, the excitement it might be hard to reproduce at somewhere such as Everton.

The only goal came in injury time at the end of the first half, when Figo was brought down by Roberto Carlos. Ronaldo, valued now at £30 million, was still dazed from a clash of heads, but insisted on taking the penalty. He hit it lamely — "like my wife would kick it", Robson said — but when Illgner pushed it out, Figo reacted quickest and turned it back to Ronaldo, who sidefooted it in.

Robson, though, had his mind on the days and weeks ahead and the manoeuvrings of Núñez. "When they do something I do not agree with," he said, "I will decide what to do with my life. If it is in the imminent future, I will probably take another job." Everton, Celtic and anyone else contemplating an advertisement in the situations vacant columns should take note.



GUSTAU NACARINO

Robson makes his point at the Nou Camp, where supporters acclaimed a 1-0 win over Real Madrid

Hibernian left to continue survival fight

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

THE season has brought Hibernian 13 new players, three managers and a shortage of points. Having finished ninth, their status as members of the Bell's Scottish League premier division, which has lasted for 16 years, will be at risk in a two-legged play-off against Airdrieonians, the runners-up in the first division.

Most footballers would prefer a spot of crocodile wrestling to facing Airdrie in a knockout event. Alex MacDonald's team may not sink their teeth into opponents, but there is always a biting competitiveness about them, as appearances in the Scottish Cup finals of 1992 and 1995 demonstrate.

Hibernian have a particularly poor record against Airdrie. Supporters, though, will hardly be poring over those statistics, not while their emotions remain engulfed by the anticlimax of Saturday.

At Stark's Park, Hibernian equalised in the 26th minute and proceeded to a tame 1-1 draw against Raith Rovers. It seemed, for a time, that an unheroic escape had been contrived. Motherwell and Kilmarnock were behind in their home matches and, if either had lost, Hibernian would have been safe, but both eventually took a point, ensuring that the Edinburgh club finished behind Motherwell on goal difference.

The only public disagreement among Hibernian staff then saw individuals vying for the lion's share of the blame. The spectacle of men jostling one another in the attempt to face facts did, at least, speak well of the candour at Easter Road. Darren Jackson, the Scotland forward, was insistent that it was all the fault of the players. Jim Duffy, the Hibernian manager, felt that the greatest responsibility lay with him. Since his appointment at the end of last year, just three league games have been won.

Duffy further implicated himself by pointing out that he has made half a dozen signings. The newcomers have extended the squad without deepening its quality. Only one of the six, Shaun Dennis, was bought from a premier division club — Raith — and even they are now relegated. Chic Charnley, Jamie McQuilken, David Elliot, Lee Power and Paul Tosh all arrived from the first division.

Hibernian will spend the next few days reminding themselves that they have better players than Airdrie and thus should remove the most pressing worries by simply beating them. In the longer term, though, Hibernian must demonstrate that they have some notion of how the club might be regenerated.

The owner, Tom Farmer, rescued Hibernian from bankruptcy in 1991, but agrees that he has no interest in football. He does not exercise power in day-to-day affairs, and since no one else possesses his authority, there is always a risk of a leadership vacuum. Supporters are, understandably, engrossed by rumours of a takeover.

They may also cast covetous glances at the other side of Edinburgh. Heart of Midlothian's financial wounds seem to be healing, with £6 million raised through a share issue, and they are established among the stronger clubs. Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, observed wryly that his counterpart at Tynecastle, Jim Jefferies, is the only premier division manager not to have heard calls for his sacking this year.

Defeat on Saturday for Rangers, the champions, hardly mattered, and the Scottish football writers' player of the year, Brian Laudrup, did not even take part, but Hearts' 3-1 victory was momentous for John Robertson. By scoring twice, he took his tally of league goals to 208, creating a club record as he moved clear of the figure of 206, set by Jimmy Wardhaugh. Hibernian are left to hope that they do not make their own little piece of history in 1997, by dropping out of the top flight.

Freedman stars at the Palace

Crystal Palace 3
Wolverhampton W 1

By Russell Kempson

DOUGIE FREEDMAN: The Story. Were it translated on to the silver screen this week, it might well vie for the Palme D'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. The script may lack the usual prerequisite ingredients of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll but it is irresistible nonetheless. It is a tale of angst, pent-up emotion and shame; drama, sudden vindication yet ultimate let-down.

Scene one: Freedman falls out of favour with Steve Coppell, the Crystal Palace manager, and is sentenced to the substitutes' bench seven times in nine matches. He keeps quiet, bides his time and vows to do better.

Scene two: He is recalled to the side, for the home game against Port Vale on May 4, but is sent off midway through the second half, for the first time in his career, for landing a right hook on Gareth Griffiths, the Vale defender.

Scene three: He is back on the bench at Selhurst Park on Saturday, for the first leg of the Nationwide League first division play-off semi-final against Wolverhampton Wanderers, but is brought on with 17 minutes remaining and scores two goals.

Scene four: Freedman signs autographs for his fans, in the Selhurst Park car park, and reflects on his altercation with Griffiths. If Palace go on to reach the play-off final, having successfully negotiated the return leg against Wolves at Molineux on Wednesday, he will not play at Wembley because of suspension.

"It was a silly thing to do, it was very out of character for me," he said. "I'd been sitting on the bench for about six weeks and perhaps all the frustration had built up inside me. I might have to pay a very heavy price, if we go on to reach Wembley, but I'll still be there, sitting and cheering the lads on."

Freedman's goals, taking his tally to 14 for the season, were delightfully taken. Palace already led 1-0, courtesy of a firm, downward header from Shipperley, when he lashed in a dipping, left-footed volley past the stranded Stowell.

Though Smith immediately reduced the gap, with his first goal for Wolves, Freedman responded with another gem — a delicate, right-footed lob as Smith and his team-mates appealed in vain for an offside decision.

That the last three goals were compressed into the final three minutes, producing a thunderous climax, created a false impression after an essentially dull, tactically uninspiring and often ragged encounter. If either club genuinely possesses FA Carling Premiership credentials, they were mysteriously withholding them from public view.

Molineux should witness better, when Wolves, the perennial underachievers, bear down on their prey and whip the partisan Black Country hordes into a frenzy. It will be a night for stout hearts in the Palace defence, when the will to survive will transcend all other qualities.

"We know we can get the two goals back," Keith Curle, the Wolves defender, said. "We'll stoke up the atmosphere. Let's get it on."

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): C Nash — M Edworthy, A Roberts, A Linighan, D Gordon — G Davies, D Hopkin, R Houghton (sub. C Veart, 82min), S Rodger — B Dyer (sub. D Freedman, 73), N Shipperley.
WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-5-2): M Stowell — A Williams, M Atkins, K Curle — J Smith, S Osborn, D Ferguson, G Thomas, A Thompson — S Bull (sub: D Foley, 84), I Roberts.
Referee: N Barry.

Stockwell finds the pressure point

Sheffield United 1
Ipswich Town 1

By David Maddock

AS A concept, there is a case to be made for the play-offs. But why bother with all this football business, given that the chances of getting an exciting game are about as high as getting a Tory government?

The point is, these matches are such tense affairs and have so much at stake that it seems a little unfair on the participants. Promotion to the FA Carling Premiership is such a massive prize in these television-sponsored days that two games is hardly the way to decide the issue.

It creates untold pressures and that is why rumours were spreading around Bramall Lane, where the first leg of the Nationwide League first division play-off was staged on Saturday, that Howard Kendall, the Sheffield United manager, would be under threat if his side ultimately failed to beat Ipswich Town.

It was hardly a classic, nerves jangling in a game that never took off. The Ipswich equaliser was a perfect illustration, the raw nerve ends of the United defence exposed by a pass from Scowcroft after 78 minutes that found Stockwell unmarked in the penalty area. He waltzed around defender and goalkeeper and, with the equaliser, the visitors had the advantage.

Before that moment United seemed likely to benefit from some nervous finishing by their opponents as they accepted a valuable lead. Jan-Aage Fjortoft showed how it was done by gliding past Swailes to beat Wright, the Ipswich goalkeeper, at his near post after 41 minutes.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): A Kelly — M Ward, C Tiler, D Holdsworth, R Nilsen — D White (sub: C Short, 86min), D Hutchison, N Henry, D Whitehouse — J A Fjortoft, P Katchouro (sub. G Taylor, 75).
IPSWICH TOWN (4-4-2): R Wright — G Uhlenbeek, C Swailes, A Vaughan, M Taricco — M Stockwell, G Williams, S Sedgley, K Dyer — J Scowcroft, N Gregory (sub: N Gudmundsson, 57).
Referee: R Pearson.

Whitby's endeavour brings due reward

North Ferriby United 0
Whitby Town 3

By Walter Gammie

THIS was the weekend when the boat came in for Whitby. As the masses flocked to the town to view the replica of the *Endeavour*, 6,500 townspeople came to Wembley, watched Whitby Town sail off with the FA Carlsberg Vase and returned happily to take their part in the celebrations.

If North Ferriby's attractive approach play was ill-served by surprising toothlessness round the penalty area and the scoreline did them no real justice, nobody would wish to deny Whitby their triumph.

Already crowned as the Federation Brewery Northern League champions, Whitby have set aside recent tribulations — being denied a place in the UniBond League three years ago, the collapse of a floodlight pylon — and performed with purpose and spirit under Harry Dunn.

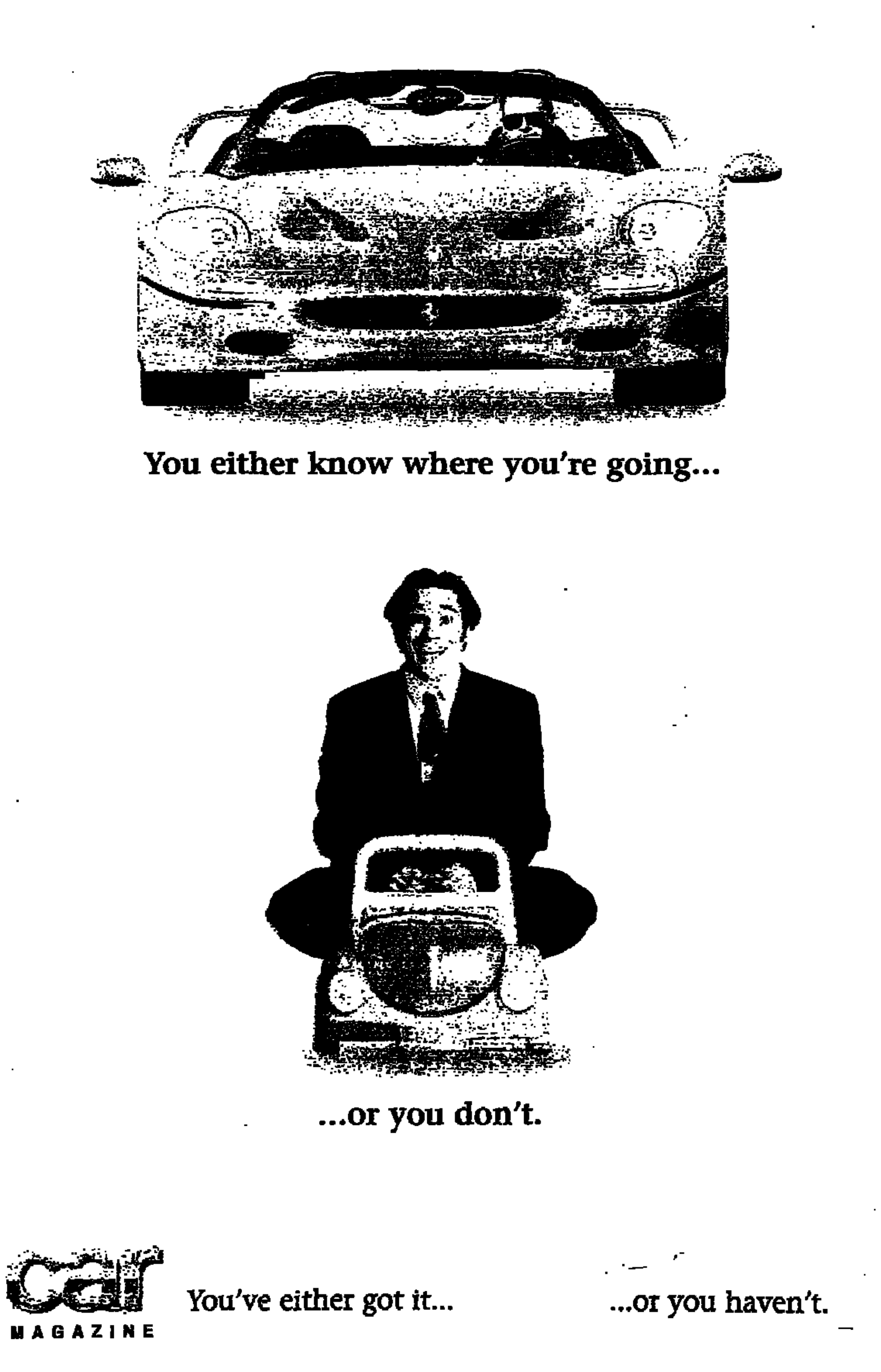
Their experienced and clear-sighted manager might rely on a bunch of eight 30-year-olds but their enthusiasm belied their age. Take David Logan, 33, who scored their first goal in the 28th minute, finding the roof of the net with a swing of his sweet left foot after Robinson returned a shot by Hodgson that rebounded off the angle of post and bar.

Logan started at Whitby at 17, before embarking on a Football League career with Mansfield Town, Northampton Town, Halifax Town, Stockport County and Scarborough that he drew to a close when offered a job as a telephone engineer. Having returned to square one, only then did he reach "the pinnacle" of his career — scoring at Wembley.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Andy Toman, 35, another football wanderer, now Football in the Community officer at Bishop Auckland. Together with Cook, he fashioned the all-important second goal, a cross-shot thumped in by Williams.

Then, as the sun broke through, Toman enjoyed a golden moment, fiercely volleying the ball home from a tight angle after Sharp, under pressure, failed to fist Pitman's cross to safety. Whitby were home and dry.

NORTH FERRIBY UNITED (4-4-2): P Sharp — J Deacey, J Walmsley, S Brentano, A Smith — K Harrison (sub: J Horne, 64min), M Smith, D Phillips (sub: S Milner, 89), M Tennison — A Flounders, D France (sub: P Newman, 75).
WHITBY TOWN (3-5-2): D Campbell — D Goodchild, L Pearson, M Cook — G Williams, N Hodgson, A Toman (sub: S Pyle, 84), K Goodrick (sub. J Borthwick, 78), D Logan — P Pitman (sub: M Hall, 86), G Robinson.
Referee: G Poll



مكذا من الاجل

RACING: SEEBE'S GALLANT SECOND IN POULICHES IS BEST RETURN FOR BRITISH RAIDERS

Home team puts challengers in shade

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
AT LONGCHAMP

A STRONG British challenge on two French classics yielded *precious little at Longchamp* yesterday when Always Loyal bettered the travelling triumverate of Seebe, Red Camellia and Dances With Dreams in the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches. And the Michael *Stoute-trained* Yalaietanee, strongly fancied for the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, disappointed in fourth behind the impressive Daylami.

Yalaietanee established his credentials when mastering subsequent 2,000 Guineas runner-up Revoque at Newbury last month. But the son of Sadler's Wells found himself at the head of affairs from the outset, *with Richard Quinn* seemingly determined to restrain the free-running colt. Frankie Dettori, riding Bahamian Bounty, was in a similar predicament and the pair had effectively compromised their chances by halfway.

Their tribulations proved academic. Daylami, settled last of the six-strong field, was brought wide into the straight before scything down his opponents in the manner of a top-class miler. He became the eighth Poulains winner for his owner, the Aga Khan, who was quick to dampen speculation surrounding a possible Derby bid. The Aga Khan was emphatic Daylami's maximum range would be ten furlongs. "He ran over ten furlongs at the end of last year and was beaten in the last 100 metres."

The suspicion was that Always Loyal, who gained a sixth Pouliches victory for her trainer, Criquette Head, landed a soft renewal of the fillies' classic. She conjured a rousing finish, prompting Mme Head — who gained consolation for Pas De Reponse's 1,000 Guineas eclipse at Newmarket — to attribute the victory to raw courage. Certainly the filly responded with relish when called to account.

It looked as though Red *Camellia's forcing tactics* would pay dividends halfway down the home straight, but her trainer, Mark Prescott, later admitted he never raised a shout. "We came here knowing she didn't really stay a mile," he said. "It was mission accomplished to finish third."

Then, for a few strides, Seebe threatened to take advantage of Red Camellia's fate. She may even have headed Always Loyal but Freddie Head would not be denied. "She ran a cracking race," Seebe's trainer, Ian Balding, said. "She was coming back all the time."

Dances With Dreams, trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam, trailed the field before closing late for fourth but Nightbird and Star Profile, the Godolphin-trained duo, failed to strike a meaningful blow.

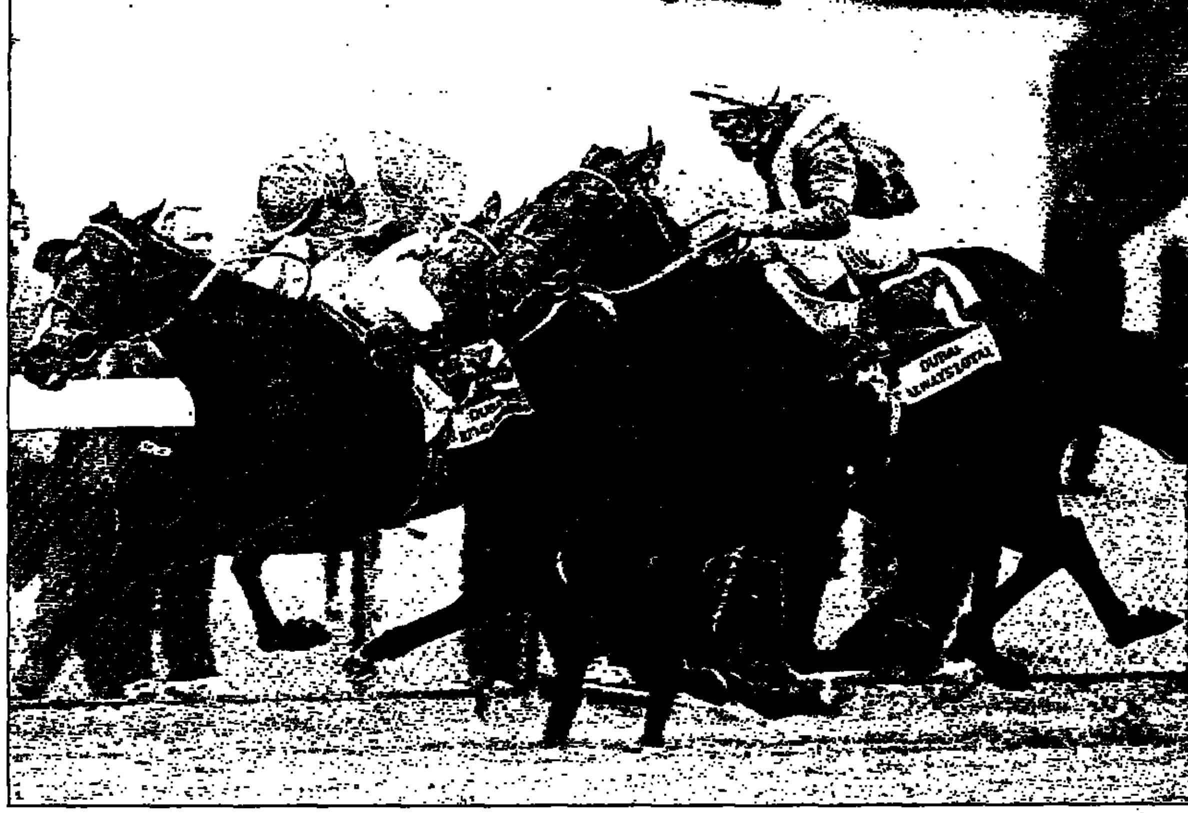
Seebe eventually failed by a head but Always Loyal, whose third racecourse outing this was, has greater scope to *progress. "In her trial she* didn't know what to do when Freddie asked her to sprint," Mme Head said. "Today was different and she showed she is very brave."

Always Loyal now heads for the Prix de Diane (French *Oaks). The disappointment of* the race was Mousse Glacee, who never threatened before folding tamely into sixth.

Britain fared better when Hever Golf Rose, last successful in the Prix de l'Abbaye here 19 months ago, held off the late thrust of Titus Livius in the Prix de Saint-Georges. Seb Sanders handled the mare *with aplomb on his first ride* at Longchamp. And Cloudings, a narrow winner of the Prix Lupin, holds the Derby option if his trainer, André Fabre, rates him worthy.

Of more relevance to the Epsom classic was the towering performance of Silver Patriarch in the Tripleprint *Derby Trial at Lingfield on* Saturday. The son of Saddlers' Hall galloped seven lengths clear of Tanaasa to establish himself a worthy opponent for Entrepreneur. The colt is 8-1 for next month's blue riband.

ED BYRNE



Always Loyal, nearside, denies Seebe, noseband, and Red Camellia in the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches at Longchamp

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: PALO BLANCO
(2.45 Redcar)
Next best: Mengaab
(4.15 Redcar)

BIG-RACE DETAILS

2.10 DUBAI POULE D'ESSAI DES POULICHES (Group I: 3-Y-O fillies: £112,233: 1m)

1, ALWAYS LOYAL (F Head); 2, Seebe; 3, Red Camellia. ALSO RAN: Dances With Dreams (4th), Nightbird (5th), Mousse Glacee (6th), Star Profile. 7 ran. Hd, ¾l, nk, 4l, 1l. Mme C Head. Pari-mutuel (inc 1Fr stake): 2.40; 2.50, 2.90. SF: 15.30.

3.15 DUBAI POULE D'ESSAI DES POULAINS (Group I: 3-Y-O colts and fillies: £112,233: 1m)

1, DAYLAMI (G Mosse); 2, Loup Sauvage; 3, Visionary. ALSO RAN: Yalaietanee (4th), Fantastic Fellow (5th), Bahamian Bounty (6th). 6 ran. NR: Keos. 2l, 2½l, ¾l, 3l, 10l. A de Royer-Dupre. Pari-mutuel: 2.60; 1.40, 1.50. SF: 7.90.

3.45 PRIX LUPIN
(Group I: £44,893: 1m 2f 110yd)

1, CLOUDINGS (O Peslier); 2, Zenith Rose; 3, Kalimisik. ALSO RAN: Azzarabad (4th), Eleos (5th). 5 ran. Nk, 3l, ¾l, 4l. A Fabre. Pari-mutuel: 2.40; 2.50, 2.90. SF: 16.30.

REDCAR

THUNDERER

2.15 One Singer
2.45 Palo Blanco
3.15 Return To Brighton
3.45 Epic Stand
4.15 Mengaab
4.45 Gymcrak Flyer

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 **RUSTY BABE.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.15 **DALLIANCE** (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 CROW'S NEST RESTAURANT NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,618: 5f) (9 runners)

1	(8)	1	ONE SINGER 11 (D,G) (Clayton Bigley Ptnrs Ltd) M Johnston 9-2	J Weaver	87
2	(6)	01	RUSTY BABE 13 (D,G) (Mrs K Mapp) J J Quinn 9-2	J Fortune	[illegible]
3	(4)	0	ASPRILLA 7 (Mrs C Bell) B Ellison 8-12	S Copp (5)	–
4	(1)		KING OF DANCE (Mrs S St Quinton) B Rothwell 8-12	L Charnock	–
5	(9)	4	SANDMOOR TARTAN 9 (Sandmoor Textiles Co Ltd) T Easterby 8-12	M Birch	70
6	(2)		IMPERIAL HONEY (E Shotton) Mrs A Swinbank 8-7	J Stack	–
7	(7)		LEATHER AND SCRIM (First Past The Post) D Nicholls 8-7	Carolyn Bales (7)	–
8	(3)		MISS PUCI (J Puckey) J Berry 8-7	K Darley	–
9	(5)	00	NGAERE PRINCESS 9 (Drakemyre Racing) W Kemp 8-7	K Fallon	–

BETTING: 2-1 One Singer, 3-1 Miss Puci, 6-1 Rusty Babe, Sandmoor Tartan, 10-1 King Of Dance, 12-1 Leather And Scrim, Imperial Honey, 14-1 others.

1996: HULA PRINCE 9-0 M Hills (4-1 jt-fav) M Johnston 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

ONE SINGER beat Blue Kite ½l in auction maiden at Wolverhampton (5f, AW). RUSTY BABE beat Young Bear 2½l in auction novice at Nottingham (5f, good). ASPRILLA 22l 13th of 15 to Angel Hill in auction maiden at Newcastle (5f, good). SANDMOOR TARTAN about 1¾l 4th of 9 to Katy Thomas in auction novice at Thirsk (5f, good to firm). NGAERE PRINCESS 11l 7th of 8 to Timekeeper in maiden at Carlisle (5f, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: SANDMOOR TARTAN

2.45 VOLTIGEUR RESTAURANT CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,810: 6f) (15 runners)

1	(8)	0U00-0	SPOTTED EAGLE 7 (D,F) (Pansy House Preservation) M Wane 4-9-12	J Carroll	79
2	(13)	505-01	STANDOWN 20 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs C Deuters) J Berry 4-9-8	K Darley	82
3	(1)	430124	DOUBLE OSCAR 8 (B,D,F) (Trilby Racing) D Nicholls 4-9-4	Alex Greaves	82
4	(11)	0056-5	PALO BLANCO 7 (D,F,G) (J Brown) T Barron 6-9-3	J Fortune	95
5	(2)	45-000	NAPOLEON'S RETURN 28 (V,C,F) (J Wilson) J Eyre 4-9-0	M Gallagher	64
6	(10)	4-0500	RAGAZZO 77 (B,G) (S Pedersen) J Wainwright 7-9-0	L Charnock	71
7	(3)	00000-	ASSIGNMENT 318 (D,F,G) (S Murrell) Mrs L Stubbs 11-8-12	A Culhane	–
8	(15)	60000-	FORECAST 217 (D,F) (Forenash Racing) K Morgan 4-8-12	D McKeown	76
9	(6)	0500-0	ORIEL LAD 11 (D,F,S) (Mrs C Cawley) E Incisa 4-8-12	Kim Tinkler	80
10	(5)	000-20	RIVER TERN 13 (D,F) (M Carver) J Bradley 4-8-12	J Weaver	[illegible]
11	(12)	04-000	BORN A LADY 11 (G) (P Dixon) Mrs V Aconley 4-8-7	M Deering	76
12	(4)	05/64-	MONKEY FACE 360 (Mrs A Jones) W Haigh 6-8-7	Aimee Cook (5)	–
13	(7)	50	HI MUJTAHID 13 (J Bradley) J Bradley 3-8-6	Amanda Sanders (5)	65
14	(9)	U50-00	NOT A LOT 7 (B) (F Hughes) M W Easterby 3-8-2	Dale Gibson	79
15	(14)	342-04	KEEN TO PLEASE 19 (G) (J Blair) D Smith 3-8-1	M Baird (3)	83

BETTING: 4-1 Double Oscar, 11-2 Standown, 6-1 Palo Blanco, 7-1 Keen To Please, 10-1 Napoleon's Return, River Tern, Not A Lot, 12-1 others.

1996: PANTHER 6-8-2 K Fallon (8-1) J Hetherton 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

STANDOWN beat Dashing Dancer 1l in seller at Pontefract (6f, good to firm). DOUBLE OSCAR beat General Sir Peter short-head in claimer at Nottingham (5f, good to firm). PALO BLANCO 6¾l 5th of 12 to Halmanerror in handicap at Doncaster (6f, good to soft) with SPOTTED EAGLE (6lb worse off) 13¼l 10th. ORIEL LAD 11l 8th of 21 to Thordis in claimer at Doncaster (7f, good) Oct 96. RIVER TERN 1l 2nd of 19 to Johayro in apprentice handicap at Ripon (5f, good to firm) with DOUBLE OSCAR (16lb worse off) 3½l 9th. KEEN TO PLEASE about ½l 4th of 14 to Johayro in apprentice limited stakes at Catterick (6f, good).
Selection: DOUBLE OSCAR

3.15 KISS AND CUDDLE PROFESSIONAL LADY JOCKEYS HANDICAP
(£3,054: 1m) (17 runners)

1	(8)	00-050	SPANISH VERDICT 17 (C,D,F,G,S) (Cox & Allen) D Smith 10-9-10	Jenny Benson (7)	96
2	(10)	3365-6	ADVANCE EAST 11 (V) (A Marsh) M Dods 5-9-6	Angela Gallimore (7)	91
3	(11)	2-0040	CEE-JAY-AY 7 (D,BF,F,G,S) (R Bates) J Berry 10-9-5	Emma O'Gorman	96
4	(9)	611203	BAGSHOT 35 (D,F,G,S) (D Bloor) G L Moore 6-9-2	Candy Morris	98
5	(4)	24040-	MURPHY'S GOLD 177J (D,BF,F) (D Read) R Fahey 6-9-1	Alex Greaves	94
6	(7)	-00000	TAKE NOTICE 8 (J Slattery) R McKellar 4-9-1	Fiona Brown (7)	–
7	(12)	50-006	JACK FLUSH 6 (D Smith) B Rothwell 3-8-13	Claire West (7)	93
8	(6)	100-00	MEZZORAMIO 21 (V,D,F,G) (T Pryke) K Morgan 5-8-12	Jo Hunnam (7)	93
9	(16)	30030-	CHAMPAGNE N DREAMS 258 (D,F) (Handy GC) D Nicholls 5-8-10	Carolyn Bales (7)	90
10	(15)	0000-0	OUR TOM 95J (D,G) (J Berry) J Wharton 5-8-8	Victoria Appleby (7)	89
11	(3)	0-0630	RETURN TO BRIGHTON 16 (D,G) (A Purvis) J Bradley 5-8-6	Amanda Sanders (5)	98
12	(17)	004-00	ASTERIX 16 (B,D,F,G) (C Hunt) J Bradley 9-8-4	Kerry Baker (7)	93
13	(2)	330-05	FISIOSTAR 11 (B) (C Graham) M Dods 4-8-0	Kimberley Hart (7)	[illegible]
14	(1)	0000-0	BAD NEWS 80 (J Bradley) J Bradley 5-8-0	Lisa Moncrieff (7)	–
15	(5)	00-009	ORIOLE 8 (V,F,S) (E Incisa) E Incisa 4-7-13	Kim Tinkler	89
16	(14)	06000-	MAURANGI 201 (B,D,F,S) (M Foster) B Murray 6-7-13	Aimee Cook (5)	94
17	(13)	0/050	RINUS MAGIC 28 (A Proos) E Alston 4-7-10	Nicola Wright (7)	91

Long handicap: Rinus Magic 7-8.

BETTING: 7-1 Bagshot, 8-1 Advance East, Cee-Jay-Ay, Champagne N Dreams, 10-1 Murphy's Gold, Fisiostar, 12-1 Spanish Verdict, Mezzoramio, Return To Brighton, 14-1 others.

1996: SPANISH STEPS 4-8-4 Jo Hunnam (8-1) M W Easterby 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

SPANISH VERDICT 1¾l 5th to Paint It Black in handicap at Thirsk (1m, good to firm) with JACK FLUSH (2lb better off) 3l 10th and CEE-JAY-AY (1lb worse off) 11th. CEE-JAY-AY 4¾l 4th to Thatched in handicap at Carlisle (1m, good) with SPANISH VERDICT (1lb better off) 11¾l 9th. RETURN TO BRIGHTON 3½l 3rd to Eurobox Boy in apprentice handicap at Nottingham (1m, good to firm) with MEZZORAMIO (1lb better off) 6½l 12th. ASTERIX 12l 9th of 19 to Knobbleeneeze in ladies handicap at Ripon (1m, good) with RETURN TO BRIGHTON 10th. FISIOSTAR 5½l 5th of 24 to Dispol Diamond in seller here (7f, firm).
Selection: SPANISH VERDICT (nap)

3.45 CLASSIC SUITE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,113: 1m 2f) (13 runners)

1	(4)	064101	JACK THE LAD 3 (C,F,S) (Keith West Ptnrs) J Hetherton 9-12 (5ex)	J Weaver	98
2	(2)	00-63	REGAL REPRIMAND 15 (Voice Group Ltd) G Lewis 9-4	Paul Eddery	96
3	(11)	614-66	SCARROTS 20 (F) (B Wyatt) S C Williams 9-2	K Fallon	93
4	(10)	601-22	EPIC STAND 14 (C,BF,F) (C Webster) Mrs J Ramsden 9-1	J Fortune	[illegible]
5	(1)	56-0	MONARCH'S PURSUIT 42 (Mrs J Conner) T Easterby 9-0	M Birch	–
6	(3)	0-6405	MARSH MARIGOLD 6 (S) (Mrs B Sadler) J Hetherton 8-12	N Carlisle	90
7	(6)	00-435	BARRESBO 13 (North Cheshire Trading Ltd) C Fairhurst 8-12	Pat Eddery	98
8	(7)	0-05	QUEZON CITY 14 (Middleham Park Racing XI) M Camacho 8-11	L Charnock	91
9	(13)	400-0	MY SALTARELLO 32 (B) (Barons Racing Ptnrs) A Mulholland 8-10	D McKeown	86
10	(12)	00-41	POLARIZE 46 (S) (J Baggott) T Barron 8-10	K Darley	91
11	(9)	-23415	DIAMOND EYRE 23 (G) (Diamond Racing Ltd) J Eyre 8-9	R Mullen (5)	91
12	(5)	4040-4	GROVEFAIR LAD 11 (D Gwyer) M Wane 8-7	J Carroll	90
13	(8)	005	MEN OF WICKENBY 17 (J Slattery) R McKellar 8-6	J Lowe	95

BETTING: 9-4 Epic Stand, 5-1 Polarize, 11-2 Regal Reprimand, 10-1 Jack The Lad, Scarrots, Diamond Eyre, Grovefair Lad, 12-1 others.

1996: HAWKSLEY HILL 8-9 K Fallon (3-1 fav) Mrs J Ramsden 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

JACK THE LAD beat Abajany ¾l in handicap at Carlisle (1m, good to soft). REGAL REPRIMAND 2l 2nd to Regal Patrol in handicap at Beverley (1m 2f, good to firm). EPIC STAND 1l 2nd to Gymcrak Flyer in handicap at Pontefract (1m, good). BARRESBO 1¾l 5th to Night Chorus in handicap at Nottingham (1m, good). POLARIZE beat Krosno ½l in maiden handicap at Musselburgh (1m, soft). DIAMOND EYRE 9l 5th of 15 to Angel Face in handicap at Thirsk (1m, good to firm) with MARSH MARIGOLD (3lb worse off) 11l 13th.
Selection: BARRESBO

4.15 CLASSIC BOXES MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,847: 1m 2f) (12 runners)

1	(7)	-0-0	ABSOLUTE CHARLIE 7 (D Hewett) C Fairhurst 9-0	D McKeown	–
2	(8)	33	BANBURY 16 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Watts 9-0	J Carroll	97
3	(1)	0-	BRIGGS TURN 185 (F Briggs) W Jarvis 9-0	O Urbina	–
4	(5)	0	DALLIANCE 23 (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 9-0	K Darley	83
5	(3)	3-	MENGAAB 250 (Sheikh Ahmed al-Maktoum) J Gosden 9-0	J Weaver	93
6	(10)	52-	MUMARIS 16 (H al-Maktoum) A Stewart 9-0	R Hills	[illegible]
7	(2)		NORTHERN MAESTRO (A Sherratt) Mrs M Reveley 9-0	A Culhane	–
8	(12)		SAN GLAMORE MELODY (Greenfield Stud) J Gosden 9-0	J Lowe	–
9	(11)	3-	SPEEDBOAT 222 (M Gleeson) J Eyre 9-0	D Pears (3)	85
10	(9)	2-6	TAUNT 20 (Lord Hartington) D Morley 9-0	Pat Eddery	90
11	(6)		AVRO AVIAN (B Skirton) M Camacho 8-9	L Charnock	–
12	(4)		KAYFIYAH (H al-Maktoum) D Morley 8-9	J Stack	–

BETTING: 11-4 Mumaris, 3-1 Mengaab, 13-2 San Glamore Melody, 7-1 Banbury, 8-1 Dalliance, Taunt, 12-1 Kayfiyah, 14-1 others.

1996: CLASSIC FIND 9-0 A Mackay (10-1) S Williams 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

BANBURY 6¼l 3rd to Lasahib in maiden at Ripon (1m 2f, good). DALLIANCE 11l 7th to Marnalik in maiden at Newbury (1m, good to firm). MENGAAB 1l 3rd to Fantastic Fellow in maiden at York (7f, good). MUMARIS neck 2nd to Rocky Oasis in maiden at Leicester (1m 2f, good to soft). SPEEDBOAT about 1¼l 3rd to Cosmic Prince in maiden at Brighton (7f, good). TAUNT ½l 3rd to Radiwng in maiden at Newcastle (7f, good) Aug 96.
Selection: BANBURY

4.45 SEE THE DIFFERENCE FILLIES HANDICAP
(£3,535: 7f) (10 runners)

1	(9)	4332-0	ZELDA ZONK 12 (CD,F) (Mrs C Painting) B Meehan 5-9-13	Pat Eddery	91
2	(6)	000-59	DON'T CARE 8 (G) (C McLaren) Miss L Perratt 6-9-9	O Urbina	98
3	(4)	31000-	PRIDE OF PENDLE 205 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Miller) M Wane 8-9-7	J Carroll	93
4	(2)	00-013	GYMCRAK FLYER 7 (CD,BF,F,G) (Gymcrak RC) G Holmes 6-8-11	K Fallon	97
5	(7)	2020-0	OUR WAY 24 (J Ward Hill) C Brittain 3-8-11	J Weaver	91
6	(8)	15-013	TRADING ACES 7 (V,D,G) (R Michaelson) M Bell 3-8-7	R Mullen (5)	98
7	(10)	010504	LA DOLCE VITA 7 (D,G) (S Woodall) T Barron 3-8-7	J Fortune	93
8	(3)	100-00	SARABI 30 (G) (Z Gabriel) J Pearce 3-7-12	Dale Gibson	90
9	(8)	05-301	COLLEGE NIGHT 6 (F) (Mrs C Dunnett) S C Williams 5-7-11 (7ex)	D Williams (7)	[illegible]
10	(1)	030-00	MAGIC LAKE 34 (D,F) (P Easton Racing) E Alston 4-7-10	M Baird (3)	95

Long handicap: Magic Lake 7-8

BETTING: 3-1 Trading Aces, 9-2 La Dolce Vita, 5-1 Gymcrak Flyer, 7-1 Zelda Zonk, College Night, 8-1 Pride Of Pendle, Our Way, 10-1 others.

1996: ZELDA ZONK 4-8-7 B Doyle (7-2 fav) B Meehan 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

ZELDA ZONK 3l 2nd of 14 to Wincome Wooster in handicap at Salisbury (7f, good to firm). DON'T CARE 3¾l 5th of 18 to Three Arch Bridge in handicap at Newcastle (7f, good to firm). GYMCRAK FLYER 1l 3rd of 15 to Shadow Jury in limited stakes at Warwick (6f, firm). TRADING ACES ¾l 3rd to The Gay Fox in handicap at Warwick (7f, firm). LA DOLCE VITA 3¾l 4th to Smoky From Caplaw in handicap at Newcastle (6f, good). COLLEGE NIGHT beat Maengo 1¾l in maiden handicap at Brighton (6f, good to firm).
Selection: GYMCRAK FLYER

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Gosden	15	51	29.4	K Darley	48	248	19.4
B Meehan	3	11	27.3	Paul Eddery	9	47	19.1
M Stoute	6	25	24.0	K Fallon	19	132	14.4
S Williams	3	19	15.8	J Weaver	14	109	12.8
T Barron	10	68	14.7	S Copp	4	34	11.8
Mrs M Reveley	41	322	12.7	D McKeown	15	128	11.7

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Redcar: 3.15 Oriole. 3.45 My Saltarello. Southwell: 2.00 Appeal Again. 5.00 Stretching. Towcester: 5.45 Green King. Windsor: 6.00 Classic Leader, Courting Danger. 6.30 Certain Magic. 7.00 Without Friends.

WINDSOR

THUNDERER

6.00 Orange Order. 6.30 Tommy Tortoise. 7.00 Farewell My Love. 7.30 Roufontaine. 8.00 Banningham Blade. 8.30 Farhan.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 6.30 Krosno.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

6.00 FIFIELD CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,308: 1m 67yd) (18 runners)

101	(5)	00-0	MUTADARRA 111 (G) W Musson 4-9-8	J Reid	97
102	(11)	51-	ORANGE ORDER 218J (F) J White 4-9-7	T Quinn	90
103	(12)	-321	SCATHEBURY 28 (D,F,G) K Burke 4-9-7	D Holland	89
104	(15)	-000	CLASSIC LEADER 17 (V) I Campbell 4-9-5	R Cochrane	92
105	(2)	0-40	BOLD FAITH 82 (G) W Musson 4-9-4	G Hind	80
106	(16)	50-0	CHALLENGER 47 J Sheehan 4-9-4	C Rutter	–
107	(6)	2010	HEVER GOLF EAGLE 44J (G) T J Naughton 4-9-4	S Sanders	82
108	(10)	33-0	FINSBURY FLYER 16 (BF,G) R Hodges 4-9-3	S Drowne	94
109	(14)	30-0	COURTING DANGER 12 (B) D Gandolfo 4-9-0	A McGlone	81
110	(1)	0	GRACIOUS IMP 19 J Jenkins 4-9-0	A Daly (5)	–
111	(4)	-050	MAD ALEX 100 M Haynes 4-9-0	M Roberts	–
112	(17)	500-	ALL STAND 200 D Chappell 4-8-12	A Clark	85
113	(3)	054-	VALISE 333 G Margarson 4-8-11	M Henry (3)	–
114	(7)	6	SURE TO DREAM 8 R Phillips 4-8-10	T Sprake	86
115	(9)	-300	CHIEF PREDATOR 20 R Hannon 3-8-8	R Perham	89
116	(18)	0-00	LUDO 6 R Hannon 3-8-5	Dane O'Neill	87
117	(13)	4-14	PASTICHE 88 (D,BF,G) T Mills 3-8-2	R Ffrench (5)	[illegible]
118	(8)	000-	SCHISANDRA 220 M Fetherston-Godley 3-7-13	F Norton	75

3-1 Scathebury, 6-1 Orange Order, 8-1 Hever Golf Eagle, Ludo, 10-1 others.

6.30 STORACALL HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,225: 1m 3f 135yd) (20) SKY

201	(15)	262-	TOMMY TORTOISE 200 Mrs [illegible] 9-7	R Cochrane	95
202	(13)	53-0	EPONINE 13 M Channon 9-5	P P Murphy (5)	90
203	(11)	4-22	ARCIONADO 20 (G) R Hodges 9-4	S Sanders	98
204	(9)	030-	SELECT STAR 188 A Jarvis 9-3	W J O'Connor	92
205	(5)	030-	MOONSPELL 222 R Charlton 9-2	T Sprake	92
206	(14)	000-	SAND CAY 195 R Hannon 9-2	Dane O Neill	87
207	(1)	-001	SUDEST 7 (F) I Balding 9-1 (5ex)	Martin Dwyer (3)	98
208	(4)	5212	KROSNO 13 (F) [illegible] 9-0	M Henry (3)	95
209	(8)	6-04	CERTAIN MAGIC 16 (V,S) W Muir 9-0	J Reid	96
210	(16)	0-3P	CLASSIC MYSTERY 25 B Meehan 8-13	G Hannon (7)	58
211	(20)	000-	BEAUCHAMP LION 209 J Dunlop 8-13	B Doyle	90
212	(6)	05-0	TARTAN PARTY 13 P Cole 8-12	T Quinn	[illegible]
213	(17)	20-0	BLUE HOPPER 7 M Channon [illegible]	R Painter	87
214	[illegible]	041	MASRRAH 30 R Armstrong [illegible]	R Price	98
215	(2)	3100	BIG BANG 16 (G) [illegible]	M Roberts	97
216	[illegible]	000-	CLASSIC LINE 249 [illegible]	G Duffield	89
217	[illegible]	40-0	AURELIAN 16 M Bell [illegible]	M Hills	97
218	[illegible]	0-64	RIGHT MAN 30 [illegible]	A Clark	96
219	[illegible]	40-0	CADBURY CASTLE 13 [illegible]	R Perham	93
220	[illegible]	300-	DIZZY TILLY 195 [illegible]	D Holland	81

[illegible] Beauchamp Lion, 9-1 others.

7.00 BEALE DOBIE & CO HANDICAP
(3-Y-O fillies: 5f 217yd) (25) SKY

301	(6)	64-6	FAREWELL MY LOVE 11 (D,G) [illegible] 9-7	T Quinn	90
302	[illegible]	02-0	MARSAD 25 [illegible]	A Clark	85
303	(11)	435-	SAYONA 185 [illegible]	D Holland	90
304	(21)	50-3	BOLD TINA 8 [illegible]	Dane O Neill	91
305	[illegible]	30-0	SILVER PURSE 14 (D,F) [illegible]	S Drowne	87
306	(4)	-113	V I P CHARLIE 55 (D,BF,G) [illegible]	S Sanders	98
307	(16)	000-	CLASS DISTINCTION 215 (F) [illegible]	[illegible] (7)	83
308	[illegible]	04-0	MIDNIGHT SHIFT 25 [illegible] 9-4	M Roberts	91
309	[illegible]	402-	SHIFTING TIME 220 (BF) [illegible] 9-4	M Hills	90
310	[illegible]	0-60	PAPITA 25 (D,F) [illegible]	A Daly (5)	95
311	(24)	1435	WITHOUT FRIENDS 5 (B,D,F) [illegible]	M Henry (3)	98
312	(5)	25-0	HYPE ENERGY 30 G Lewis 9-1	Paul Eddery	98
313	(14)	5-10	MON BRUCE 16 (D,G) W Muir 8-13	J Reid	97
314	(18)	0200	IVORY DAWN 10 K Ivory 8-10	Martin Dwyer (3)	[illegible]
315	(8)	15-5	SALLY GREEN 11 (D,G) C Wall 8-10	G Duffield	93
316	(13)	350-	TAILWIND 198 W Muir 8-10	D Harrison	94
317	(1)	3060	HEAVENLY MISS 7 (D,F,G) J Bridger 8-9	R Cochrane	58
318	(3)	10-0	STRAT'S QUEST 42 (D,S) D Arbuthnot 8-9	S Whitworth	94
319	(25)	0-43	SILVER LINING 13 (F) A P Jones 8-9	T Sprake	96
320	(22)	604-	STOCK HILL DANCER 203 B Meehan 8-8	B Doyle	85
321	(23)	5606	SHARP RETURN 2 (D,S) M Ryan 8-6	G Carter	90
322	(19)	0-00	BATSMAN 25 W Musson 8-5	G Hind	90
323	(9)	05-0	VILLAGE PUB 32 K Cunningham-Brown 8-5	R Ffrench (5)	93
324	(7)	1421	WILL TO WIN 65 (D,G) P Murphy 8-0	C Rutter	97
325	(2)	40-0	WILD NETTLE 30 J Fox 7-10	D O'Shea	97

8-1 Bold Tina, 10-1 Midnight Shift, Shifting Time, Will To Win, 12-1 Farewell My Love, Marsad, Hype Energy, 20-1 others.

7.30 ROBERT WALTERS LIMITED STAKES (£3,643: 1m 2f 7yd) (13) SKY

401	(10)	0060	CEDEZ LE PASSAGE 6 (B,G) K C-Brown 6-9-2	B Doyle	88
402	(6)	1	KOTA 39 (F) J Wharton 4-9-2	Pat Eddery	91
403	(7)	00-	COUGHANT 352 J White 5-9-0	P P Murphy (5)	–
404	(7)	240-	FARRINGDON HILL 224 (F) J Gosden 6-9-0	L Dettori	90
405	(11)	00-0	JUST FLAMENCO 77 (CD,F,S) M Ryan 6-9-0	G Carter	–
406	(2)	-300	MYFONTAINE 72 (C,D,F,S) K Ivory 10-9-0	C Cassidy (7)	88
407	(5)	0-06	OCEAN PARK 30 (D,F,G) Lady Herries 6-9-0	D O'Shea	90
408	(3)	4-26	PHILISTAR 19 (B,D,G) J Eustace 4-9-0	R Cochrane	93
409	(8)	/4-0	WHIPPERS DELIGHT 42J (F,G) G C-Jones 9-9-0	C Cox (7)	–
410	(9)	0-50	ZIDAC 31 (D,F,G) P Makin 5-9-0	S Sanders	93
411	(12)	230-	CLASSIC PARISIAN 218 I Campbell 4-8-11	R Price	89
412	(4)	300-	HAWANAFA 63J Miss K George 4-8-11	G Duffield	81
413	(13)	50-6	ROUFONTAINE 13 (D,F,G,S) W Muir 6-8-11	J Reid	[illegible]

13-8 Farringdon Hill, 4-1 Kota, 7-1 Ocean Park, 8-1 Roufontaine, 10-1 Philistar, 14-1 Myfontaine, 16-1 Cedez Le Passage, Zidac, 20-1 others.

8.00 BONUSPRINT CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,333: 5f 10yd) (7)

501	(1)	31	CHIPS 8 (D,F) D Elsworth 9-3	L Dettori	93
502	(5)	5	ALPEN WOLF 16 W Muir 8-11	J Reid	80
503	(3)	22	THE BOY JOHN 8 (BF) R Hannon 8-11	Pat Eddery	94
504	(6)	1113	BANNINGHAM BLADE 12 (D,F) K Ivory 8-10	M Dwyer (3)	[illegible]
505	(2)	51	GOLDEN MIRAGE 8 (D,S) M Channon 8-10	P P Murphy (5)	83
506	(4)		TRUTH TELLER R Hannon 8-8	Dane O'Neill	–
507	(7)		JAY GEE C Margarson 8-3	G Carter	–

13-8 Chips, 3-1 The Boy John, 5-1 Banningham Blade, 6-1 Golden Mirage, 8-1 Truth Teller, 10-1 Alpen Wolf, 66-1 Jay Gee.

8.30 BULLBROOK MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,030: 1m 2f 7yd) (16)

601	(9)	0	ALHOSAAM 24 W Hern 9-0	S Whitworth	82
602	(12)	0-40	BEGORRAT 7 B Meehan 9-0	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
603	(2)	0	BOLD ET NOIR 14 A Jarvis 9-0	S Sanders	–
604	(15)	0-4	COPPER SHELL 13 A P Jones 9-0	S Drowne	[illegible]
605	(11)		EXPIALIDOCIOUS J Fanshawe 9-0	M Roberts	–
606	(1)	522-	FARHAN 216 (BF) P Walwyn 9-0	R Hills	[illegible]
607	(3)	0	FLYING ESPRIT 14 G Margarson 9-0	M Henry (3)	–
608	(5)	24-3	IN QUESTION 20 B Hills 9-0	D Holland	96
609	(13)		PARDAN B Palling 9-0	T Sprake	–
610	(5)	6	SCOSS 11 L Cumani 9-0	R Ffrench (5)	–
611	(16)	03-4	TOM TAILOR 8 D Elsworth 9-0	L Dettori	85
612	(4)	0-	DESPINA 233 H Candy 8-9	C Rutter	–
613	(6)		MARY MISTRESS I Campbell 8-9	R Price	–
614	(14)	50-4	MISS RIVIERA ROSE 20 G Wragg 8-9	M Hills	94
615	(7)	0-6	NORTHERN TOUCH 31 S C Williams 8-9	D Harrison	55
616	(10)	0	SWEETCHILDOFMINE 14 H Akbary 8-9	G Hind	–

5-2 In Question, 3-1 Farhan, 3-1 Scoss, Miss Riviera Rose, 10-1 Tom Tailor, 12-1 Alhosaam, Begorrat, 14-1 Despina, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Guest, 4 winners from 16 runners, 25.0%; G Wragg, 5 from 22, 22.7%; R Armstrong, 3 from 14, 21.4%; H Candy, 7 from 40, 17.5%; R Hannon, 35 from 211, 16.6%; P Walwyn, 5 from 31, 16.1%.

JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery, 40 winners from 175 rides, 22.9%; L Dettori, 24 from 116, 20.7%; J Reid, 22 from 134, 16.4%; T Quinn, 19 from 141, 13.5%; M J Dwyer, 3 from 23, 13.0%.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.00 **YOUNG ANNABEL** (nap). 2.30 Pharly Dancer. 3.00 Jigsaw Boy. 3.30 People Direct. 4.00 Charlies Lad. 4.30 My Bet. 5.00 Carol Again.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.00 Charlies Lad.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.00 SPAIN CLAIMING STAKES
(Div I: £2,277: 7f) (9 runners)

1	0-20	YOUNG ANNABEL 3 (CD,G) C Dwyer 4-9-8	G Faulkner (5)	3
2	3212	DESERT INVADER 4 (CD,G,S) D Chapman 6-9-5	P Fessey (5)	5
3	2453	BOLD ARISTOCRAT 4 (C,G) R Hollinshead 6-9-3	F Lynch (3)	1
4	-404	COMMIN' UP 14 Miss J Bower 4-9-2	D Harrison	4
5	500-	GUNNER B SPECIAL 215 (B) S Bowring 4-9-1	S Webster	9
6	5600	APPEAL AGAIN 14 (B) D Burchell 4-8-13	R Price	2
7	R-00	AQUADO 8 (CD,F,G) D Shaw 8-8-13	C Teague (3)	8
8	0-00	SAMSOLOM 4 (D,F,G) M Sowersby 9-8-13	K Sked (7)	7
9	00-	SYLVANIA LIGHTS 298 A Newcombe 3-7-10	J Marshall	6

5-2 Desert Invader, 11-4 Young Annabel, 7-2 Bold Aristocrat, 8-1 others.

2.30 ITALY HANDICAP (£2,277: 1m 6f) (16)

1	-003	JUMP THE LIGHTS 11 (G) S Woods 4-10-0	C Webb (7)	15
2	-624	PHARLY DANCER 14 (CD,G,S) W Haigh 8-9-12	L Newton	2
3	0130	KALAMATA 13 (C,G) J Glover 5-9-5	N Day	8
4	4460	EL NIDO 2 (CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 9-9-4	R Winston (7)	16
5	00-5	PRECEDENCY 14 K McAuliffe 5-9-3	J F Egan	7
6	0406	STALLED 69 (CD,F,G,S) P Walwyn 7-8-13	D Holland	9
7	21/0	SUSHI BAR 13 (D,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-13	D Harrison	4
8	0000	COHIBA 21 B Curley 4-8-7	W Ryan	14
9	10-4	TIAPHENA 30 (G) J Mackie 6-8-7	J Quinn	5
10	4001	CARROLLS MARC 14 (C,D,F,G) C Murray 9-8-5	Iona Wands (5)	12
11	-400	ANOTHER QUARTER 35 (C,F,G) M Chapman 4-8-4	P Fessey (5)	6
12	4422	HASTA LA VISTA 7 (B,C,F,G) M W Easterby 7-8-4	G Parkin (5)	1
13	/0P-	TIP IT IN 16J A Smith 8-8-0	N Adams	3
14	0213	HIGH FIVE 14 (D,G) R Ingram 7-7-13	G Bardwell	10
15	020P	SWARDALE FLYER 19J N Bycroft 5-7-10	J Bramhill (5)	11
16	500/	GLOWING MANTLE 735P B Preece 9-7-10	D Wright	13

5-1 Hasta La Vista, 11-2 Jump The Lights, 13-2 Carrolls Marc, 8-1 Pharly Dancer, Tiaphena, High Five, 10-1 Stalled, 12-1 others.

3.00 SPAIN CLAIMING STAKES
(Div II: £2,277: 7f) (9)

1	0	KOMASEPH 4 R Marvin 5-9-5	T G McLaughlin	8
2	2340	JIGSAW BOY 16 (D,F,G,S) P Murphy 8-9-2	D Harrison	6
3	0950	SPANISH STRIPPER 11 (F) M Chapman 6-9-3	D O'Donohoe (3)	2
4	0000	DASHING DANCER 7 D Shaw 6-8-13	J Fanning	1
5	0405	DISSENTOR 20 (B,C,G) J Glover 5-8-13	G Carter	4
6	00-0	MEDLAND 116 (D,F,G) B McMath 7-8-13	D Biggs	7
7	60-0	VERRO 11 (E,C,G,S) F Bishop 10-8-13	G Bardwell	5
8	00	LITTLE PAPOOSE 16 B McMahon 4-8-12	L Newton	9
9	04-	KUSTOM KIT KLASSIC 163 S Bowring 3-8-11	S Webster	3

[illegible] Jigsaw Boy, Dashing Dancer, 4-1 Kustom Kit Klassic, 9-2 Dissentor, 8-1 Spanish Stripper, 10-1 Medland, Little Papoose, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 25 winners from 97 runners, 25.8%; M Johnston, 50 from 229, 21.9%; P Haslam, 15 from 86, 17.4%; W Haigh, 20 from 129, 15.5%; C Brittain, 9 from 60, 15.0%; M Bell, 9 from 65, 13.8%.

JOCKEYS: D Holland, 22 winners from 108 rides, 20.4%; G Parkin, 6 from 33, 18.2%; D Biggs, 20 from 116, 17.2%; K Sked, 3 from 18, 16.7%; N Day, 4 from 25, 16.0%; D Harrison, 22 from 138, 15.9%.

3.30 FRANCE FILLIES HANDICAP
(£3,174: 1m) (15)

1	-040	HEATHYARDS LADY 14 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 6-9-10	F Lynch (3)	14
2	-630	BEST OF ALL 8 (E,CD,BF,F,G,S) J Berry 5-9-9	G Carter	8
3	0-52	SIS GARDEN 16 (B,G) J Cullinan 4-8-4	D O'Donohoe (3)	5
4	0130	CATS BOTTOM 14 (CD,BF,F,G) A Newcombe 5-8-12	J Quinn	7
5	-060	HOH FLYER 19 (G) M Bell 3-8-12	M Fenton	10
6	0-00	PEOPLE DIRECT 16 (CD,G) K McAuliffe 4-8-10	J F Egan	6
7	204	ISIS HONDA 14 C Brittain 3-8-2	G Bardwell	4
8	3450	DAVID JAMES' GIRL 26 (CD,G,S) A Bailey 5-8-1	R Winston (7)	15
9	0000	JILLY BEVELED 14 (D,G) R Thompson 5-7-10	T Williams	12
10	4050	DOWN THE YARD 4 (CD,F,G) M Chapman 4-7-10	Iona Wands (5)	2
11	0604	LACHESIS 13 D Shaw 4-7-10	D Wright	13
12	00-0	HADADABBLE 23 Pat Mitchell 4-7-10	N Varley	11
13	3560	ERIPETITE 42 (CD,G) N Bycroft 4-7-10	N Kennedy	9
14	5324	QUEENS STROLLER 34 (C,G) R Peacock 6-7-10	J Bramhill (5)	1
15	60-0	SILVER MOON 18 B McMahon 3-7-10	S Righton (7)	3

11-2 Cats Bottom, 13-2 Sis Garden, 7-1 Best Of All, 8-1 Isis Honda, David James' Girl, Lachesis, 10-1 Hoh Flyer, People Direct, 12-1 others.

4.00 SWEDEN MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,277: 5f) (13)

1		LIFE SENTENCE J Smyth-Osbourne 8-9	D Harrison	3
2		GRALMANO N Littmoden 8-8	T G McLaughlin	5
3	3	CHARLIES LAD B R Guest 8-7	P Bloomfield	11
4	2	MOSS SIDE MONKEY 28 J Berry 8-7	G Carter	12
5	00	TOLL'S TIMES 7 M W Easterby 8-7	G Parkin (5)	7
6		BENROCK J Wilson 8-6	Angela Hartley (7)	4
7		HEAVENLY FALLS C Dwyer 8-5	N Varley	10
8	0	MARGARET'S DANCER 51 C Smith 8-4	D O'Donohoe (3)	9
9		MINETTA M Bell 8-4	M Fenton	6
10		MALOZZA P Evans 8-2	J F Egan	8
11		DISPOL LASS P Calver 7-13	Darren Moffatt (3)	2
12		ELLEYSANTA A Newcombe 7-13	J Marshall	13
13		KAGSI D O'Brien 7-12	G Bardwell	1

2-1 Charlies Lad, 9-4 Moss Side Monkey, 9-2 Minetta, 12-1 Malozza, 16-1 Heavenly Falls, Dispol Lass, 20-1 Gralmano, Toll's Times, 25-1 others.

4.30 DENMARK FILLIES SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,277: 5f) (7)

1	4315	MY BET 3 (CD,G) M W Easterby 9-0	G Parkin (5)	7
2		BEECHWOOD QUEST B Rothwell 8-9	M Fenton	4
3	40	CHARDANIA 11 J H Wilson 8-9	Angela Hartley (7)	3
4	522	ELLENBROOK 10 J Berry 8-9	P Fessey (5)	5
5	3	MAEDALEY 19 P Haslam 8-9	T Williams	2
6	66	PATSY CULSYTH 7 M Johnston 8-9	J Fanning	1
7	0	PERSIAN FORTUNE 7 W G M Turner 8-9	D Sweeney (5)	6

13-8 Ellenbrook, 9-4 My Bet, 13-2 Maedaley, Patsy Culsyth, 12-1 Beechwood Quest, 16-1 Chardania, Persian Fortune.

5.00 GERMANY APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£1,985: 1m 3f) (14)

1	5-10	ILLUMINATE 44J (G) D O'Brien 4-10-0	Daniel Burchell (7)	7
2	0500	HEIGHTH OF FAME 13 (G) J Hetherton 6-9-13	Iona Wands (3)	8
3	240-	DIEGO 200 (G) C Brittain 4-9-13	K Parkin (5)	3
4	0-26	STRETCHING 48 (B) A Bailey 4-9-4	T Siddall (5)	4
5	/4-4	MOWLAIE 10 (F) D Chapman 6-8-13	P Fessey	14
6	4550	CAROL AGAIN 33 (CD,G) N Bycroft 5-8-8	J Bramhill (3)	2
7	6600	EVEZIO RUFO 7 (V,S) N Littmoden 5-8-8	P Roberts	5
8	2004	KILNAMARTYRA GIRL 14 (C,F,G) J Parkes 7-8-6	D Sweeney	9
9	00-0	SAFA DANCER 16 B McMahon 4-8-2	S Righton (5)	10
10	6416	HAPPY BRAVE 11 (CD,G) P Cundell 5-8-0	C Cogan (5)	13
11	0-05	DULAS BAY 9 M W Easterby 3-7-11	R Winston (5)	6
12	000-	PERFECT ANGEL 188 M Tompkins 3-7-10	R Brisland (5)	12
13	60/3	EVAPORATE 41 M Heaton-Ellis 5-7-10	J Fowle (5)	11
14	000-	BURNING COST 149 R Peacock 7-7-10	K Sked (3)	1

9-2 Diego, Kilnamartyra Girl, 7-1 Illuminate, 8-1 Heighth Of Fame, Carol Again, Happy Brave, 10-1 Stretching, 12-1 others.

TOWCESTER

THUNDERER

5.45 The Flying Doctor. 6.15 Yquem. 6.45 Mountain Path. 7.15 Lucky Christopher. 7.45 Mr Pickpocket. 8.15 Stormyfairweather.

Carl Evans: 6.15 Yquem. 7.15 The General's Drum.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

5.45 CHRISTIE & CO SURVEYORS VALUERS AND AGENTS SELLING HURDLE (£2,375: 2m) (7 runners)

1	0507	THE FLYING DOCTOR 7 (CD,G) G Balding 7-11-5	W McFarland
2	0F	ESPLA 11F J S Moore 6-11-0	J Magee (3)
3	0005	GREEN KING 7 (B) A P Jones 5-11-0	S McNeill
4		ULTIMATE WARRIOR 244F Mrs L Richards 7-11-0	M Richards
5	3522	STERLING FELLOW 7 D Williams 4-10-9	Mr S Durack (7)
6	5322	SUMMER VILLA 9 (BF,B) K Wingrove 5-10-9	W Marston
7	U5	PERO'S TREASURE 9 J A Harris 4-10-4	J Supple

[illegible] The Flying Doctor, 7-2 Sterling Fellow, 13-2 Summer Villa, 10-1 Ultimate Warrior, Pero's Treasure, 20-1 Espla, Green King.

6.15 HARTWELL LAND ROVER HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,674: 2m 110yd) (16) SKY

1	3/1U	NECTANEBO 12 (D,F) N Parker 9-12-2	M Frith (7)
2	5145	NOT MY LINE 13 (G) A Morgan 8-12-2	A Sansome (5)
3	12-1	YQUEM 9 (G,S) A Varey 7-12-2	N R Mitchell (7)
4	7P05	AL HASHIMI 7P (D,F,G,S) N Ridout 13-11-13	N Ridout (7)
5	1432	DALAMETRE 23 (G,S) M Evans 10-11-13	M Munrowd (7)
6	234F	DRIVING FORCE 15P (B,D,F,S) H Mobley 11-11-13	A C-Jones (7)
7	4-0P	EMERALD RULER 25 (D,G,S) A Peachey 10-11-13	P Cowley (7)
8	P242	FAMILIAR FRIEND 9 (B,D,F,S) S J Gilmore 11-11-13	L Lay (7)
9	4523	HICKELTON LAD 42 (F,G) D Williams 13-11-13	S Durack (7)
10	6525	KILLIMOR LAD 13 (D,F) Mrs D Samworth 10-11-13	Miss S Samworth (7)
11	P0AP	KING OF SHADOWS 23 (G) Miss C Carden 10-11-13	S Prior (7)
12	PPPP	LUCKY LANDING 8P Andrew J Martin 8-11-13	A Martin (7)
13	PP3U	MY YOUNG MAN 9 (D,F,G,S) C Brooks 12-11-13	E James (7)
14	P6P3	NO WORD 42P (F) I Baker 10-11-13	Mr I Baker (7)
15	5-3P	SHUIL SAOR 9P (F) Miss P Fitton 10-11-13	J Saville (7)
16	PP1U	FELTHAM MISTRESS 15P D C Tucker 7-11-8	E Babington (7)

3-1 Yquem, 11-2 Nectanebo, 7-1 Dalametre, 8-1 Not My Line, Hickelton Lad, My Young Man, 10-1 Familiar Friend, 12-1 others.

6.45 SHOOSMITHS SPRING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,408: 2m 5f) (6) SKY

1	312	MOUNTAIN PATH 23 (S) N Henderson 7-11-11	M A Fitzgerald
2	5332	NORDIC SPREE 12 (V) G L Moore 5-10-10	A P McCoy
3	14P3	CAMEO 7 (CD,F,G,S) M Banks 11-10-3	D Skyrme
4	4U30	MOOBAKKR 16 (D,F,G,S) K Morgan 6-10-6	D Byrne
5	2433	LUKE WARM 68 D Gandolfo 7-10-[illegible]	Sophie Mitchell (3)
6	0321	A S JIM 40 (G) O O'Neill 6-10-1	V Slattery

7-4 Mountain Path, 7-2 Nordic Spree, 4-1 Cameo, 13-2 Luke Warm, 8-1 Moobakkr, A S Jim.

7.15 LAND ROVER GENTLEMANS CHAMPIONSHIP HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £4,163: 3m 1f) (8) SKY

1	2F1	FARDROSS 36P (G) J Grocott 11-12-4	C Stockton (7)
2	2222	LUPY MINSTREL 23P (D,F,S) Miss P Robson 12-12-4	A Parker (7)
3	U111	LUCKY CHRISTOPHER 29P (F,G,S) G J Tarry 12-12-0	G Tarry (5)
4	21P1	THE GENERAL'S DRUM 23P (F,G,S) Mrs R Fell 10-12-0	K Heard (7)
5	2111	MAGNOLIA MAN 15P (F,S) Ms D Cole 11-11-9	N Harris (7)
6	1112	QUALITAIR MEMORY 9P (F,G,S) C L Tizzard 8-11-9	J Tizzard (7)
7	33P1	SYRUS P TURNTABLE 9P (F) Miss P Fitton 11-11-9	J Saville (7)
8	P-32	SECRET TRUTH 8P Andrew J Martin 8-11-4	A Maddix (7)

11-4 Magnolia Man, 7-2 Qualitair Memory, 4-1 Lucky Christopher, 7-1 Fardross, 8-1 Lupy Minstrel, The General's Drum, 12-1 others.

7.45 MULBERRY INSURANCE NOVICES CHASE (£3,105: 3m 1f) (8) SKY

1	061P	GRIZZLY BEAR 13 (F) R Strange 7-11-7	J Culloty
2	-14U	MASTER TOBY 23 (G) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-7	C Llewellyn
3	4134	MR PICKPOCKET 13 (G,S) Miss H Knight 7-11-7	J F Titley
4	FF51	BROGEEN LADY 59 (G) D Gandolfo 7-11-2	R Dunwoody
5	3564	BALLYDOUGAN 9 (V) R Mathew 9-11-1	D Walsh
6	2-3P	DEBONAIR DUDE 23 N Henderson 7-11-1	M A Fitzgerald
7	08P3	DERRYS PREROGATIVE 21 A Carroll 7-11-1	R Johnson
8	3P0P	MUSICAL HIT 42 (B) P Pritchard 6-11-1	R Bellamy

5-2 Mr Pickpocket, Brogeen Lady, 3-1 Master Toby, 10-1 Grizzly Bear, Debonair Dude, 16-1 Ballydougan, Derrys Prerogative, Musical Hit.

8.15 GIBBS AND DANDY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,966: 2m) (13)

1	2011	STORMYFAIRWEATHER 26 (C,F) N Henderson 5-12-0	M A Fitzgerald
2		BELARUS Mrs I McKie 5-11-0	W McFarland
3	0P-P	BOXGROVE MAN 25 (G,S) J Old 7-11-0	G Bradley
4	0	CAMP HEAD 157 D Sherwood 6-11-0	J A McCarthy
5	0-05	CAPTAIN WALTER 94 J Old 7-11-0	J Osborne
6	0	DARDE DOVE 40 K Bailey 6-11-0	S McNeill
7		HIGH PITCH N Gaselee 5-11-0	C Llewellyn
8	0233	PHYSICAL FUN 13 A Blackmore 6-11-0	P Henley (3)
9	0222	RYTHM ROCK 56 D Gandolfo 8-11-0	R Dunwoody
10	42-P	SINGLE SOURCING 110 (D,F) Miss H Knight 6-11-0	J Culloty
11		OVER AND UNDER Mrs I McKie 4-10-9	L Harvey
12	-005	THE BIZZO 17 J Panvert 6-10-9	W Marston
13	12	UR ONLY YOUNG ONCE 758 (D,BF,F) Mrs D Haine 7-10-9	J F Titley

5-2 Stormyfairweather, 9-2 Single Sourcing, 7-1 Rythm Rock, 8-1 Physical Fun, Ur Only Young Once, 10-1 Camp Head, Darde Dove, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 11 winners from 58 runners, 19.0%; C Brooks, 7 from 38, 18.4%; N Henderson, 7 from 38, 18.4%; J Moore, 3 from 17, 17.6%; Mrs D Haine, 6 from 35, 17.1%; Mrs I McKie, 7 from 43, 16.3%.

JOCKEYS: J Culloty, 4 winners from 16 rides, 25.0%; R Dunwoody, 16 from 74, 21.6%; D Byrne, 3 from 17, 17.6%; J Titley, 4 from 25, 16.0%; A P McCoy, 6 from 38, 15.8%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Bath

Going: good

2.00 (1m 3f 144yd) 1, **KING ALEX** (Pat Eddery, 4-9 fav); 2, **Taufan's Melody** (M Roberts, 9-4); 3, **Male-Ana-Mou** (Dane O'Neill, [illegible]). ALSO RAN: [illegible] 5 ran. [illegible] R Charlton. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.40. DF: £1.60. CSF: £1.74.

2.30 (5f 11yd) 1, **GYPSY HILL** (S Drowne, 3-1); 2, **Contrary Mary** ([illegible], 9-1); 3, **Country Garden** (Dane O'Neill, 5-1). ALSO RAN: [illegible] Miss Equal, 12 Imperial Prince, [illegible] D Haydn Jones at Pontypridd. Tote: £40.90; [illegible] £1.50, £2.00. DF: £109.40. Trio: £203.60. CSF: [illegible]

3.00 (1m 5f 22yd) 1, **IRISH LIGHT** (D Holland, 4-1); 2, **Selletto** (S Drowne, 4-1); 3, **Persevere** ([illegible], 10-1). ALSO RAN: [illegible] 9 Blue Lamp (6th), 14 Silvery, 16 Sugar Plum, [illegible] 14 ran. NR [illegible]. [illegible] M Stoute at Newmarket. Tote: £5.70; £2.10, £2.10, £5.90. DF: £14.60. Trio: £178.10. CSF: £19.94.

3.30 (1m 5f) 1, **GADGE** ([illegible], 7-2); 2, **Sylvan Princess** (Martin Dwyer, 10-1); 3, **Broughtons Turmoil** (Dane O'Neill, 15-2). ALSO RAN: [illegible] 16 Law Commission (6th). 16 ran. NR [illegible], Sooty Tern. [illegible] A Bailey at Tarporley. Tote: £4.00; £1.80, £2.70, £2.60. DF: £15.00. Trio: £52.40. CSF: £37.10. Tricast: £232.08.

4.00 (5f 161yd) 1, **ROYALE FIGURINE** (D Holland, 7-2); 2, **Arethusa** (Dane O'Neill, [illegible]); 3, **Blue Iris** (M Roberts, 100-30 fav). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Conspiracy (6th), [illegible] 11 Connemara (4th), 25 Bride's Reprisal. 7 ran. [illegible] M Fetherston-Godley at East Ilsley. Tote: £5.70; £2.00, £2.40. DF: £20.20. CSF: £17.85.

4.30 (5f 11yd) 1, **INTIAASH** (Pat Eddery, 4-1); 2, **Nildee Lad** (T Sprake, 10-1); 3, **Lunar Mist** (R Havlin, 9-1). ALSO RAN: [illegible] 6 Spender, [illegible] 8 ran. NR [illegible] D Haydn Jones at Pontypridd. Tote: £3.50; £1.70, £2.00, £2.10. DF: £25.50. Trio: £44.20. CSF: £39.61. Tricast: £312.75.

5.00 (2m 1f 34yd) 1, **HIGH FIVE** (Martin Dwyer, 7-2 fav); 2, **Fortunes Course** (R Ffrench, 7-1); 3, **Bodie's Pride** (N Carlisle, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Con Sho No (4th), [illegible] 7 Ginka, [illegible] 10 Rose Of Glenn, 16 Canny Three, 25 Gentleman Sid, Kashan, 33 Willow Bay (refused to race). 12 ran. [illegible] R Ingram at [illegible]. Tote: £4.40; £1.40, £2.30, £8.60. DF: £30.90. Trio: £125.40. CSF: £26.53. Tricast: £550.25.

Placepot: £472.60. Quadpot: £100.80.

Beverley

Going: heavy

2.20 (7f 100yd) 1, **Lindrick Lady** (M Fenton, 11-2); 2, Petite Risk (7-1); 3, Ultra Boy (7-2). [illegible] 3-1 fav. 13 ran. [illegible] Tote: £4.10; £1.60, £2.20, £1.90. DF: £24.60. Trio: £15.90. CSF: £42.45.

2.50 (1m 100yd) 1, **Three Arch Bridge** (J Weaver, 11-2); 2, Snowy Mantle (14-1); 3, Sandblaster (10-1). [illegible] 7-4 fav. 12 ran. M Johnston. Tote: £6.20; £2.30, £5.00, £2.00. DF: £56.30. Trio: £247.10. CSF: £82.54. Tricast: £744.63.

3.20 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, **Mels Baby** (D Pears, 9-4 fav); 2, Premier Generation (7-2); 3, [illegible] (5-1). 9 ran. NR Askern. J Eyre. Tote: £2.80; £1.50, £1.50, £1.90. DF: £6.40. Trio: £15.10. CSF: £10.52. Tricast: £41.59.

3.50 (1m 3f 216yd) 1, **Mentalasanythin** (G Faulkner, 11-2); 2, Campaspe (7-2); 3, [illegible] (5-1). Lookingforarainbow 3-1 fav. 10 ran. NR [illegible]. Tote: £6.30; £1.90, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £11.50. Trio: £35.40. CSF: £24.52. Tricast: £97.61.

4.20 (5f) 1, **Nifty Norman** ([illegible], 9-1); 2, Arthelia (10-1); 3, [illegible] (6-4 fav). 13 ran. NR [illegible]. J Berry. Tote: £11.90; £2.90, £2.40, £1.40. DF: £110.30. Trio: £24.40. CSF: £101.77.

4.50 (5f) 1, **Branston Berry** ([illegible], 6-1); 2, Quiz Master (Evens fav); 3, [illegible] (7-1). 11 ran. NR [illegible]. Tote: £6.10; £1.90, £1.90, £2.00. DF: [illegible]. Trio: £13.50. CSF: £17.16.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £21,273.82 carried forward to Windsor today)

Placepot: £72.30

Quadpot: £5.80

Wolverhampton

Going: good (turf), standard (all-weather)

2.10 (1m 100yd) 1, **Absolute Liberty** ([illegible], 14-1); 2, [illegible] (6-4 fav); 3, [illegible]. NR Mystic Strand. S Woods. Tote: £17.00; £2.90, £1.50, [illegible]. DF: £13.30. Trio: £27.10. CSF: £33.71.

2.40 (2m 46yd) 1, **Castle Secret** ([illegible], 6-1); 2, Noufari (5-2); 3, [illegible]. [illegible] D Burchell. CSF: £14.86.

3.10 (2m ch) 1, **Sublime Fellow** ([illegible] Fitzgerald, 4-7 fav); 2, [illegible] (20-1). 4 ran. N Henderson. Tote: £1.50. DF: £12.10. CSF: [illegible]

3.40 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Cariboo Gold** ([illegible], 100-30); 2, Kenmore-Speed (3-4 fav); 3, [illegible] (13-1). [illegible] K Bailey. Tote: £3.70; £2.00, [illegible]. CSF: £10.66. [illegible]

4.10 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, **Crystal Gold** ([illegible], 100-30); [illegible] Ground Game 5-2 fav. [illegible] M Stoute. Tote: [illegible] DF: £20.70. [illegible] CSF: £16.26. Tricast: £52.53.

4.40 (5f) 1, **Summerseat** ([illegible], 6-1); 2, [illegible] 9-4 fav. [illegible] Tote: £8.00; £1.90, £2.20, £2.00. DF: £30.30. CSF: £35.48.

5.10 (1m 4f) 1, **Fresh Fruit Daily** ([illegible]); 2, [illegible]; 3, All On (5-2 fav). [illegible] Kelleway. Tote: £4.20; [illegible]. DF: £19.30. CSF: £25.36. Tricast: £57.52.

Placepot: £129.80.

Quadpot: £6.80.

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King's no longer rule waves in water polo

By John Goodbody

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

NO SCHOOL has been so dominant in water polo in recent years as King's, Grantham. Coached by Jim Caulfield, a martinet in the pool but a charming man away from it, King's have usually been supreme in the national schools championships.

In the under-19 event they won five of the eight titles up to 1996. In the under-16 agegroup King's won nine times in the 13 years up to 1996.

Caulfield said: "The standard is getting better every year. I know how Alex Ferguson feels. Still, I get a buzz from these competitions. The adrenalin starts pumping. It's a drug but at least I sleep better than I used to do." He admitted that he "took his frustration out in a vocal sort of way".

He can say that again. His cajoling and criticism on the side of the pool clearly motivates his teams. He wants to win so much that the boys inevitably respond. They want to win for themselves but also for him. It gives them extra incentive. Caulfield said: "One boy said to me that the day I stop shouting is the day I will stop coaching. He was probably right.

"The hardest thing is to keep the consistency. You try to get everyone sharp and ready on the same day. Sometimes not everyone is firing on all cylinders."

In the under-16 event at Putney on Saturday, King's lost 19-3 to Queen Elizabeth, Barnet, who went on to take the title by beating Trinity, Croydon, 19-6 in the final.

In the under-19 competition King's faced Haberdashers' Aske's, Elstree, their opponents in this final in the previous two years. For Trevor Hyde, the Haberdashers' coach, who began these championships 21 years ago, it was the moment for which he had been waiting.

Haberdashers' had never won the title but this year had a team bristling with talent, including James Kattan and Matthew Irish, both of whom have captained the England junior team, and two national trialists, Alex Shaw and Ashley Blake. The final was an epic, with John Allan, of the City of London School, commenting: "It was a real showcase for the sport."

There was never more than two goals between the teams. They were 5-5 at half-time, 9-9 at full time, 10-10 after one period of extra time and 11-11 at the end of extra time. The teams then went into sudden death and Haberdashers' scored the decisive goal to take the title 12-11. Hyde said: "Jim is the person I look up to most in coaching water polo. It was a measure of the man that he was the first to congratulate our captain."

Haberdashers' have five water polo teams. Hyde said: "It is not difficult to interest boys in the game but it is harder to develop an interest than, say, in football or rugby, which are often on television and tactics and techniques are analysed. That is a learning environment for a boy."

Yet, water polo, he said, has many advantages as a sport. "Most activities are about athletic prowess on the land. Water polo is about athletic prowess under water."

Many natural ball players are poor swimmers and vice versa, so the sport evens out the differing requirements.

Allan said: "A lot of good swimmers are not good water polo players. They swim into corners and get lost." Both he and Hyde agree that a requisite is to be a good strategist and to be able to see what is happening around you through flailing arms, splashing water and with a restricted vision because the head is only just above the water.

Although the sport is renowned for its aggressive toughness, the water, explained Hyde, is a "friendly environment", pointing out that "you do not get collisions of bones on a frozen pitch." He has seen only six serious accidents in 32 years involved in the sport: Allan, just two during his 22 years.

But, Hyde added, water polo is also a hard sport. "You cannot breathe when you want to," he said. "Often, just as you are about to breathe, another tackle comes in."

Results, page 40

ANTHONY UPTON

City of London and Trinity, Croydon, wage battle at Putney

Withdrawal symptoms on horizon

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

The tobacco companies will be nervously monitoring the Queen's Speech this week to learn the full extent of the Government's proposed advertising ban. The industry is under siege, facing smoking-related damages cases in Britain and the United States, and most Western governments are increasing advertising and marketing restrictions.

In recent years, sport sponsorship has become one of the most important forms of brand-building for the tobacco companies faced with restrictions on other forms of advertising. Sports as diverse as snooker and motor racing have come to rely heavily on tobacco money.

Labour appears to have moved away from a complete ban on tobacco sport sponsorship, but Tony Banks, the new Minister for Sport, is well known for his opposition to tobacco-company involvement in sport. Even limited restrictions, which stop short of a total ban, could force the tobacco industry out of sport if it decides that its product will no longer be reaching its target audience.

British tobacco companies spend £8 million a year on sport — about 20 per cent of their marketing budget. This only represents about 3 per cent of all sporting sponsorship, but it is highly concentrated on a number of smaller sports and the impact of its withdrawal could be devastating.

The highest-profile beneficiary of tobacco money is Formula One motor racing. Six of the 12 race teams have substantial tobacco backing. A British ban on advertising is unlikely to end tobacco sponsorship of Formula One, but it could lead to the cancellation of races in this country.

Bernie Ecclestone, the sport's supremo, has already revealed that he is looking to expand the sport into Asia-Pacific — partly to win new followers, but also to avoid restrictions on tobacco sponsorship. Europe is likely to lose some of its races with the French Grand Prix, where restrictions are especially tough, favourite to disappear first. If Britain follows the French lead, Ecclestone would have few qualms about removing the British Grand Prix from the Formula One fixture list.

However, the withdrawal of tobacco sponsorship could lead to some UK-based sports falling into long-term decline. The Imperial Tobacco Group, best-known for its Regal and Embassy cigarettes, has supported snooker events for 22 years and the snooker authorities are convinced that without this backing the sport would never have achieved its high profile. The company has also been a big sponsor of fishing competitions which have a huge following.

The impact the withdrawal of tobacco money can have on a sport has been demonstrated by the plight of Hickstead, the premier show-jumping arena, which, earlier this year, lost £400,000 of sponsorship money provided by Silk Cut. It has taken the intervention of Paul Schockemöhle, the former Germany showjumper, to save the Royal International Horse Show, but the future of the Hickstead Derby hangs in the balance.

Tobacco companies argue that they operate under a voluntary code of practice that prevents the sponsorship of events in which a significant number of under-18s take part. The television companies impose further restrictions on how tobacco logos are displayed when sports events are televised.

But even if the Government leaves tobacco sponsorship of sport untouched in this parliamentary session, there can be little doubt that it will remain vulnerable to new restrictions in the future. Sports which are especially reliant on tobacco money are almost certainly going to have to learn to wean themselves off the habit.

Alasdair Murray

Challenge crews relishing calm after the storm

BT Global Challenge

Lucy Duncan says *thoughts are now turning to home on board Concert*

In the middle of one of the more relentless storms in the Southern Ocean, someone commented that they could not imagine ever being warm and dry again. Now, just a week into the fifth leg of the BT Global Challenge, we are already in shorts and T-shirts and it is fast becoming hard to imagine being thoroughly cold and wet.

The crew's reflections on the Southern Ocean range from the odd one who would vaguely contemplate returning, perhaps as skipper for the next race or maybe to round Cape Horn the "right" way, to the sentiment expressed by Sarah Brice, the medic on *Concert*, that the only ice she intended to see again was in a gin and tonic.

Cape Town was a tremendous stopover. Apart from the fact that we were relieved to get there, it was an exciting place to visit and, although there was a lot of work to do on the boat, we managed to fit in a bit of exploring, including a scramble up Table Mountain.

In total, we had three weeks to recover from the rigours of the Southern Ocean and to prepare both ourselves and the boat for a very different leg. With some newly replaced parts to the boat — the pulpit on the bow had been battered out of all recognition — and the crew and skipper, Chris Tibbs, all mended and in working order, we were more than ready for the run to Boston.

The start was as impressive as expected in the shadow of Table Mountain. There were more people than we have seen at any other port, giving us a tremendous send-off, helped by a very impressive "blessing of the waves" by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The weather was kind, too, as we set off in blazing sunshine and then we really did sail off into the sunset — a glorious orange one.

There could be no greater contrast to the previous leg. Our only reminders are the weather faxes received on the on-board computer, which still depicts large areas of the Southern Ocean. We now take great delight in looking from a distance at some horrible depressions, imagining the storms down there while we are rather smugly up here.

No longer do we have to drag waterlogged sails across a heaving deck, being regularly submerged by large waves. Since the start we have been sailing downwind with spinnakers, which is positively restful in comparison. No longer do we have to be woken half an hour before our next watch in order to struggle into numerous layers of clothing. Now it is a five-minute job to stagger out of bed and go straight on deck in casual clothing.

Consequently, the need for sleep is not so urgent and we have more time. We are all talking to each other much more again. We never seemed to have the time in the Southern Ocean — we were too busy just holding on and surviving.

Conversations and thoughts are now beginning to turn to plans for after the race. Cape Town seems to have been something of a watershed and the end of the race is starting to become a reality. Approximately half the crew of *Concert* are intending to return to their jobs, though no one is quite sure of their expectations or how they will cope with "real life" again. I am sure that this is a topic that will run and run, with the answers becoming less clear the closer we get to Southampton.

Meanwhile, we are thoroughly enjoying the warmer weather and appreciating it far more than we did in October. Breakfast on the first day out of Cape Town found us in first place. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case as we are now third. Having lost the last leg by a mere 20 minutes, we need no incentive to avoid the same fate in Boston.

LATEST POSITIONS (as at 13.56 GMT yesterday, with miles to Boston): 1, Commercial Union 5,312; 2, Group 4 5,313; 3, Concert 5,320; 4, Toshiba Wave Warrior 5,327; 5, Save The Children 5,334; 6, Courtaulds International 5,341; 7, Motorola 5,352; 8, Nuclear Electric 5,352; 9, Global Teamwork 5,352; 10, Heath Insured II 5,372; 11, Pause To Remember 5,376; 12, Ocean Rover 5,399; 13, Time & Tide 5,414; 14, 3Com 5,418

Curling severs link with Barber

Point-to-point
by Carl Evans

ONE of the sport's most successful partnerships ended on Saturday when Polly Curling finished her association with Richard Barber, the Dorset trainer.

"Having been the yard's No 1 rider in the past I have been unhappy at getting fewer rides this season," Curling said from her Somerset home yesterday. "The final straw came when I was told Polly Gundry would ride Earthmover at Chepstow."

One of the best six-year-olds in the country, Earthmover had been ridden by Curling until injury prevented her partnering him in two recent wins, when Gundry took over.

Point-to-pointing's most successful rider in recent years, Curling, 32, became Barber's first-choice jockey in 1993 and capped her association with the yard when winning Cheltenham's Foxhunters' Chase on Fantus in 1995, a year in which she rode a record 40 winners between the flags.

She won the national women riders' title three times in that period but the non-stop success ended last year when Curling took a number of heavy falls and lost her women's championship title to Alison Dare. Some owners in the yard lost faith in Curling and Tim Mitchell effectively became top rider. Mitchell rode Fantus at Cheltenham in March when the gelding collected his second Foxhunters' Chase, a demotion for Curling which she felt acutely.

Any ill feeling was suppressed when Curling raced to 16 winners this year and she was on course for another women riders' title until a fall on an outside ride last month rendered her unconscious and forced her to the sidelines for the mandatory 21 days.

She had a quiet return last week but when told Gundry would ride Earthmover, Curling declined the ride on Old Mill Stream, the ladies' open winner under Gundry at the **Minehead & West Somerset** on Saturday.

"We had some great times and I rode more than 110 winners for the yard," Curling said. "But when you ride for a high-profile yard you are expected to win on everything. Sometimes people forget that when you ride a lot of five-year-olds you are bound to have falls. Now I'm looking forward to riding for some old friends. I've ridden 195 winners and my next goal is 200. I'm certainly not packing the sport up."

SATURDAY'S DETAILS

BILSDALE (Easingwold) **Hunt**: 1, Danegeld (N Smith, 1-3 fav); 2, Timber Topper; 3, Singing Sam. 6 ran. **Confined**: 1, Blackwoodscountry (C Mulhall, 7-4 fav); 2, Mr Dick; 3, Caman. 8 ran. **Men's Open**: 1, Gaelic Warrior (S Swiers, 7-2); 2, Ashdren; 3, No More Trix. 5 ran. **Rest**: 1, Kiri's Rose (P Gee), 1, Joint Account (Mrs F Needham); 3, Mount Faber. 8 ran. **Ladies**: 1, Osgathorpe (Mrs F Needham, 4-1); 2, Carole's Delight; 3, Kellys Diamond. 7 ran.

CUMBERLAND (Aspatria) **Hunt**: 1, Restraint (Miss F Barnes, 3-1); 2, Boreen Owen; 3, Heavenly Hooter. 3 ran. **Rest**: 1, Jayandoubleu (T Scott, 7-1); 2, Grey Rock; 3, Fiddlers Brae. 17 ran. **Ladies**: 1, The Buachaill (Mrs V Jackson, 9-4); 2, Across The Card; 3, Just For Kicks. 6 ran. **Men's Open**: 1, Fiscal Policy (R Trotter, 6-1); 2, Makin' Doo; 3, Bit Of A Blether. 9 ran. **Intermediate**: 1, Bitolanatter (R Morgan, 2-1); 2, Toaster Crumpet; 3, Nova Nita. 7 ran. **Open Mdn I**: 1, Keeper's Call (A Parker, 4-1); 2, Alrite Pet; 3, More Rain. 11 ran. **Open Mdn II**: 1, Concerto Collonges (R Ford, 6-4 fav); 2, Press To Sting; 3, Shine A Light. 15 ran.

EAST ANGLIAN BLOODHOUNDS (Marks Tey): **Confined**: 1, Give It A Bash (T Moore, 12-1); 2, Dance On Sixpence; 3, Current Attraction. 7 ran. **Open Mdn**: 1, Flapping Freda (M Gingell, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Fragment; 3, Balled. 8 ran. **Members**: 1, Gypsy King (A Coe, 1-6 fav); 2, Paddy A Go Go. 2 ran. **Men's Open**: 1, Foxbow (A Sansome, 4-1); 2, Over The Edge; 3, Lyme Gold. 4 ran. **Ladies**: 1, Professor Longhair (Miss C Papworth, 4-9 fav); 2, Major Inquiry; 3, Ace Of Spies. 3 ran. **Intermediate**: 1, Rough Edge (W Wales, 3-1); 2, Ballyallia Castle; 3, Shake Five. 8 ran.

MINEHEAD & WEST SOMERSET (Holnicote): **Hunt**: 1, Tuffnut Tom (R Payne, 7-4 fav); 2, Nikolayevich; 3, Southerly Buster. 5 ran. **Open Mdn**: 1, Millyhenry (J Tizzard, 9-2); 2, Dollybat; 3, Simply Joyful. 14 ran. **Ladies**: 1, Old Mill Stream (Miss P Gundry, 4-5 fav); 2, Slabridge Gold; 3, Rapid Rascal. 7 ran. **Rest**: 1, Royal Turn (A Honeyball, 15-2); 2, Kinesiology; 3, Samule. 3 ran. **Men's Open**: 1, Earl Boon (T Mitchell, 10-11 fav); 2, Hensue. Only 2 finished. 3 ran. **Confined**: 1, Four Leaf Clover (J Jukes, 4-5 fav); 2, Just Ben; 3, Tangle Kelly. 7 ran.

SURREY UNION (Peper Harow): **Hunt**: 1, And Why Not (J Van Praagh, Evens fav); 2, Royal Irish; 3, The Forties. 4 ran. **Rest**: 1, Bocock's Pride (T Underwood, Evens jt-fav); 2, Prime Course. Only 2 finished. 3 ran. **Men's Open**: 1, Valibus (P Scouller, 5-1); 2, Billion Dollarbill; 3, Northern Village. 5 ran. **Ladies**: 1, Howaryadoon (Miss T Cave, 1-2 fav); 2, Woody Will; 3, Abdul Emir. 6 ran. **Open Mdn**: 1, Provincial Retreat (P Bull, 5-4 fav); 2, Linger Balinda; 3, Armed Force. 7 ran. **Confined**: 1, Supreme Dealer (A Warr, 3-1); 2, Velka; 3, Vultoro. 6 ran.

VALE OF AYLESBURY (Kingston Blount): **Confined**: 1, Run For Free (A Hill, 2-1 fav); 2, Teatrader; 3, Cawkwell Dean. 9 ran. **Rest**: 1, Villains Brief (R Lawther, 5-2); 2, Trevveethan; 3, The Hon Company. 8 ran. **Ladies**: 1, Fundy (Miss T Spearing, 4-7 fav); 2, Rayman; 3, Unlake Lightning. 7 ran. **Men's Open**: 1, Grecian Lark (G Tarry, 4-7 fav); 2, Welsh Singer; 3, Lofty Deed. 5 ran. **Open Mdn**: 1, Mr Pinball (P Cowley, 25-1); 2, Marmalade. Only 2 finished. 9 ran. **Hunt**: 1, Bet A Lot (Miss T Honeyball, 4-7 fav); 2, Royal Dadda. Only 2 finished. 3 ran.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S SIX MEETINGS

Lingfield Park

Going: soft

2.00 (7f) 1, **Superfcat** (Pat Eddery, 6-1); 2, Baked Alaska (7-2); 3, Lochangel (5-2 fav). 7 ran. 2l, 1l. D Elsworth. Tote £7.10; £2.50, £1.90. DF £3.80. CSF £22.22.

2.30 (1m 3f 106yd) 1, *Crown Of Light* (O Peslier, 11-2); 2, Book At Bedtime (14-1); 3, Ukraine Venture (8-15 fav). 5 ran. 1l, 7l. M Stoute. Tote £4.70; £1.90, £2.30. DF £20.50. CSF £55.35.

3.00 (1m 3f 106yd) 1, **Silver Patriarch** (Pat Eddery, 5-4 fav); 2, Tanaasa (13-8); 3, Shaman (7-1). 5 ran. 7l, 3l. J Dunlop. Tote £1.90; £1.20, £1.40. DF £1.60. CSF £2.19.

3.30 (1m 1f) 1, **Supply And Demand** (K Fallon, 7-4 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Sheer Face (10-1); 3, *Regal Patrol* (5-2). 6 ran. NR: Sword Arm. 1¼l, 2l. G L Moore. Tote £2.30; £1.30, £5.10. DF £13.00. CSF £17.34.

4.00 (1m 2f) 1, **Selamah** (Pat Eddery, Evens fav, Thunderer's nap and Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Eshtiaal [illegible]; 3, Danish Rhapsody (6-1). 13 ran. [illegible] Chatton. Tote £1.90; £1.20, £1.90. DF £3.60. Trio £6.00. CSF [illegible]

4.30 (1m 2f) 1, *Gentilesse* (K Fallon, 11-4 fav); 2, [illegible] (13-2); 3, Height Of [illegible] (5-1). 12 ran. NR: Bonanza Peak. [illegible] Tote £2.60; £1.50, £2.60. DF £9.20. Trio £12.30. CSF £17.14.

5.00 (6f) 1, Youdontsay (Dane O'Neill, 10-1); 2, La Petite Fusee (5-2); 3, *Mr Frosty* [illegible] 11-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Natural Key. Sh hd, 1l. T Naughton. Tote £15.40; £6.40, £2.00. DF £31.40. Trio £51.30. CSF [illegible] Tricast £324.26.

Placepot: £64.40

Quadpot: £2.50

Beverley

2.15 1, Father Eddie (6-1); 2, Skelton Sovereign (15-8 fav); 3, Rock It Rose (14-1). 10 ran. NR: Captain Flint.

2.45 1, *Carlton* (2-1 fav); 2, In Good Nick (12-1); 3, Mardrew (7-1); 4, Rude Awakening (25-1). 17 ran.

3.15 1, High Premium (7-2 fav); 2, Golden Thunderbolt (33-1); 3, Kala Sunrise (16-1). 19 ran.

3.45 1, First Maite (9-4 fav); 2, Blessingindisguise (11-1); 3, Sue Me (20-1); 4, Square Come (7-1). 18 ran. NR: Broadstairs Beauty.

4.15 1, Indiscreet (6-5 fav); 2, Yavlensky (4-1); 3, Barba Papa (5-4). 3 ran.

4.45 1, Dirab (10-1); 2, Contrarie (20-1); 3, Golden Hadeer (2-1 fav); 4, Romalito (12-1). 20 ran.

Hexham

2.20 1, Peppa Charlie (4-1); 2, Mister Trick (3-1); 3, *Eternal City* (15-2). *Eastcliffe* 5-2 fav. 11 ran.

2.50 1, *Bold Statement* (10-11 fav); 2, Silver Minx (15-8); 3, Amber Holly (20-1). 12 ran.

3.20 1, Reel Tonic (11-10 fav); 2, Plumbob (7-1); 3, Exemplar (4-1). 10 ran.

3.50 1, Palace Of Gold (11-8 fav); 2, Noir Esprit (7-1); 3, Susefja (9-2). 9 ran.

4.20 1, Tapatch (5-2 jt-fav); 2, Super Sandy (13-2); 3, *Cardenden* (3-1). *Whaat Fettle* 5-2 jt-fav. 6 ran.

4.50 1, Kinda Groovy (9-1); 2, Highland Way (9-2); 3, Jumbo Star (12-1). Rascally 8-11 fav. 6 ran.

Worcester

2.10 1, Kinnescash (6-4); 2, Tulchev (5-1); 3, Influence Pedler (10-11 fav). 5 ran.

2.40 1, Who Am I (16-1); 2, With Impunity (7-4 fav); 3, The Bargeman (7-2). 10 ran. NR: Walls Court.

3.10 1, Stay With Me (9-2); 2, Our Robert (10-1); 3, Classic Pal (6-1). Apache Park 10-3 fav. 10 ran. NR: *Mutazz*.

3.40 1, Lay It Off (8-1); 2, Merlell Boy (9-1); 3, *Farney Glen* (14-1). Nova Champ 5-2 fav. 15 ran.

4.10 1, The Toiseach (2-1 fav); 2, Derring Bridge (11-4); 3, General Mouktar (3-1). 6 ran.

4.40 1, Macgeorge (13-8 fav); 2, Dream Ride (8-1); 3, Lien De Famille (33-1). 11 ran. NR: *Kiwi Crystal*.

5.10 1, Conchobor (6-1); 2, Roker Joker (33-1); 3, *Whistling Jake* (10-1). Deputy Leader 4-1 fav. 16 ran. NR: Deep C Diva, Frankie Muck, Rupert Blues.

5.40 1, Holloa Away (14-1); 2, Country House (11-8 fav); 3, Going Primitive (11-2). *17 ran. NR: Treat Me Bold.*

Newton Abbot

6.05 1, Embankment (1-4 fav); 2, Tarragon (6-1); 3, Final Score (40-1). 6 ran.

6.35 1, Evening Rain (5-1); 2, Thats The Life (4-1); 3, Gladys Emmanuel (7-2). *Bishops Castle 2-1 fav. 6 ran.*

7.05 1, Brave Tornado (7-4 fav); 2, Moving Out (5-1); 3, Country Tarrquin (8-1). 7 ran.

7.35 1, King Torus (11-8 fav); 2, Ticket To The Moon (9-2); 3, Full Alirt (14-1). 14 ran.

8.05 1, Tight Fist (13-8); 2, Stratton Flyer (40-1); 3, Run With Joy (33-1). Lucky Eddie *6-4 fav. 7 ran. NR: Belly Cruise.*

8.35 1, Apachee Flower (9-4 fav); 2, Amillionmemories (4-1); 3, Tiger Claw (10-1). 11 ran.

Warwick

5.20 1, Mutzenberg (7-2); 2, Above The Cut (11-4 jt-fav); 3, Schnozzle (8-1). Lucky Archer 11-4 jt-fav. 6 ran.

5.50 1, Alpine Mist (6-1); 2, Verde Luna (7-2); 3, Alosaili (14-1). Snowy Petrel 11-8 fav. 9 ran.

6.20 1, Lord McMurrough (9-4 jt-fav); 2, Desert Force (12-1); 3, Super Rapier (5-1). Chief Mouse 9-4 jt-fav. 6 ran.

6.50 1, Albermarle (6-1); 2, Gratomi (33-1); 3, *Ios Dawn* (11-4 fav). *17 ran. NR: Arctic* Triumph, Surprise City.

7.20 1, Miss Diskin (10-3); 2, Sounds Strong (11-2); 3, Harrystown Lady (9-2). Garrylough 5-2 fav. 7 ran. NR: Canboo Gold.

7.50 1, Prince Buck (4-6 fav); 2, True Fortune (7-2); 3, Derton Ri (6-1). 8 ran.

8.20 1, *Andsuephi* (16-1); 2, Lucy Glitters (10-1); 3, Winston Run (16-1). Oh Mother 11-10 fav. 21 ran. NR: Minibelle.

LEADERS ON THE FLAT

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Runs since win	Level stakes
M Johnston	36	33	21	6	-35.33
G L Moore	26	21	12	1	-0.71
R Hannon	23	20	16	2	-57.34
R Hollinshead	23	21	25	9	-87.01
D Nicholls	22	15	11	20	-12.40
J Dunlop	19	15	10	1	+5.80
Miss G Kelleway	18	14	11	18	-26.66
J Berry	18	20	16	3	-51.75
P Haslam	17	13	10	7	+18.21

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
K Fallon	36	35	24	0	+28.08
J Weaver	35	29	21	7	-4.82
Pat Eddery	34	23	13	0	-26.60
S Sanders	31	40	31	6	-90.90
L Dettori	30	18	17	6	+0.99
D Holland	29	30	20	44	-51.34
A Clark	28	23	13	3	+87.35
S Drowne	27	15	14	2	-41.09
T Quinn	20	15	20	19	-3.20

SAILING

Dutchman defies odds and squalls

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

ROY HEINER, of Holland, swept into the finish of the Royal Ocean Racing Club's North Sea Race at Scheveningen on Saturday on his new Mount Gay 30 Deugnit, to steal first place overall in the IMS division from many larger yachts.

Heiner, who is based at Enkhuizen on the Ijsselmeer and won a bronze medal in the Finn class at the Olympic Games, was all the more impressive for having won on a yacht designed to carry water ballast. This is illegal under IMS rules, so his tanks were empty and sealed.

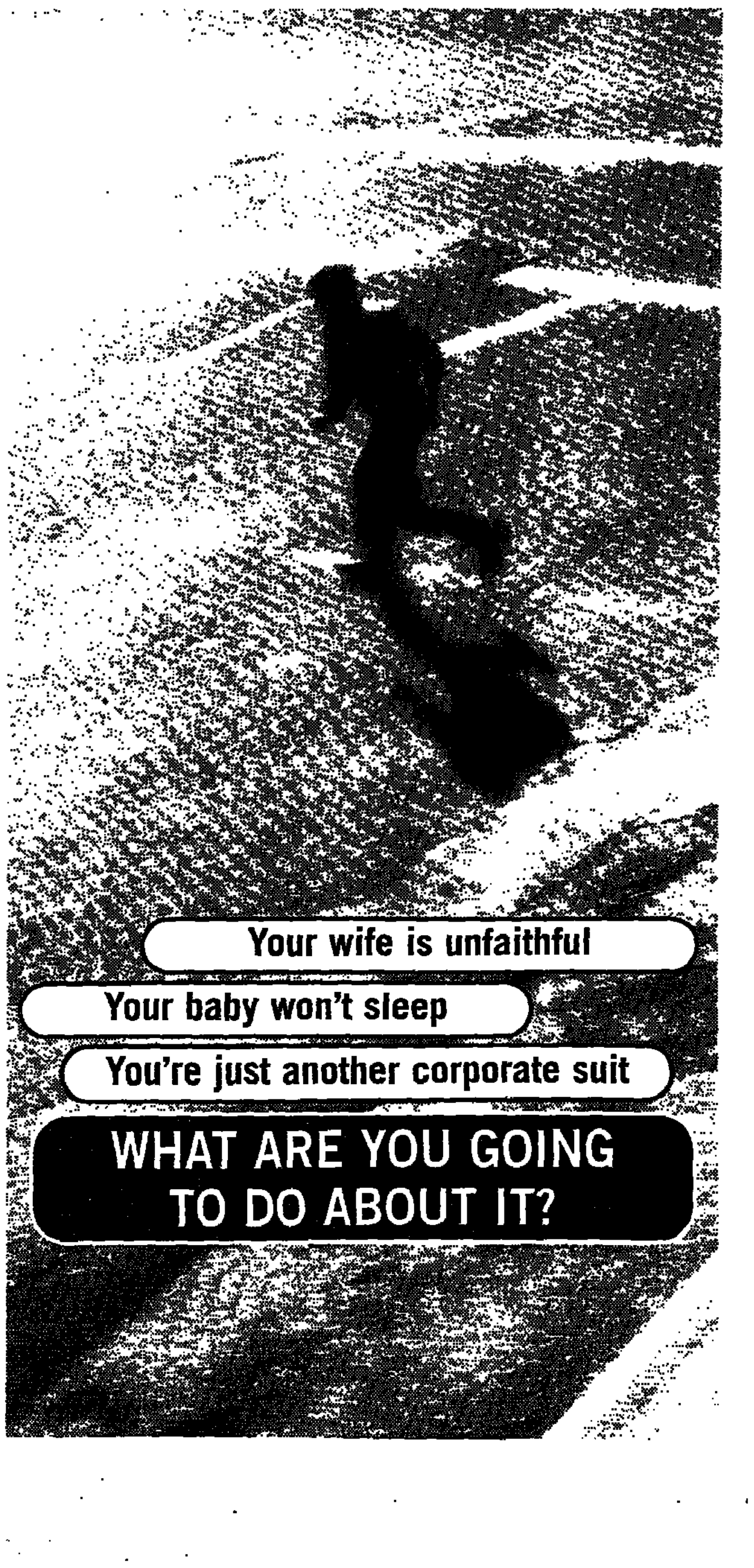
More than half the 60 starters who mustered off Harwich on Friday for the 192-mile race were Dutch, preparing for the IMS European championships next weekend.

A squally south-westerly produced plenty of power amid frequent showers. After a short beat at the start, the fleet was off the wind for most of the race, including a fast spinnaker run up to Smith's Knoll off the Norfolk coast and then a long broad reach on starboard to MSP buoy off Ijmuiden.

The first finishers, including Richard Mathews's Oyster 46, *Essex Girl*, which took line honours, were able to fetch all the way to the line. But most of the fleet was forced to tack and they had the 25-knot southerly in their faces as they approached Scheveningen.

In the British-dominated CHS divisions, David Powell, on his West Mersea-based Lightwave 395, *Blush*, prevailed in Class 1 from the Dutch-owned J44, *J-Star*. In Class 2, David Geaves's successful Burnham-on-Crouch-based J35, *Fiona VII*, won for the second year in succession. In Class 3 the OOD34, *Twee Gezusters*, owned by Hans Zuiderbaan but skippered by his wife, Hannah, emerged victorious.

Captain Roy Aspinall, of West Mersea, won Class 4 on his well-travelled UFO 34, *Bellerophon*.



Your wife is unfaithful
Your baby won't sleep
You're just another corporate suit
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

مكبر من الاصل

CRICKET

Covers shielding playing flaws are washed away

ALAN LEE

Championship Commentary

IT WAS almost teatime on the eighth day of the Britannic Assurance county championship programme before the first victory of the season was recorded. The fact that it went to Gloucestershire will raise a few eyebrows; the fact that they beat Hampshire will not.

There have been two principal topics of conversation during this sodden start to summer and only one has concerned the weather. Cricket, thus far, might have been fragmented, frustrating and sometimes futile, but it has not been unrevealing. Already, it is clear that a number of teams are depressingly inadequate.

Hampshire are but one of these. Like most sides who consider themselves "in transition" — a useful mitigation for teams not as good as they used to be — their players are either young and promising or old and past their best. They lack the vital middle ground, men in their prime to do the bulk of the work.

But for the washout of the fourth day in the opening round of fixtures, in which they were decidedly second-best against Essex, they would have suffered two heavy defeats by now and there are doubtless more to come.

Matthew Hayden may begin to score the mountains of runs that he forecast for himself when the sun does shine in earnest, and there is something to like in the youthful seam bowling of Dimitri Mascarenhas and Simon Renshaw, but Hampshire, on early evidence, will struggle.

If the gauge for this is that they were soundly thrashed by Gloucestershire, who are themselves highly unlikely to win anything grander than the Costcutter Cup, then bleaker judgment still can be made of Nottinghamshire. They required a lunchtime abandonment on Saturday to reprieve them from the unthinkable — a championship loss against Durham.

Such hearty, time-honoured scepticism may be unjust to a Durham side that now has a considerable man as leader, in David Boon, and has signed wisely to reinforce a shaky batting order with Nick Speak and Martin Speight. The weather on Saturday was cruel, for neutrals everywhere would have cheered their first victory for two years. But it would still have said too much about the shortcomings of their opponents.

In the early 1990s, Nottinghamshire spent three seasons out of four in the championship place-money. They were eleventh in 1995 and seventeenth a year later, when they lost eight of their last ten matches.

They are picking up where they left off, and, without the dynamism of Chris Cairns, it is even difficult to imagine a repeat of the transient redemption they claimed last season from a silver medal in the Sunday League.

Tim Robinson, 40 next year, is still much their best batsman and the fact that their bowling attack is led by Kevin Evans, an admirably loyal and wholehearted servant who would be a decent first-change in most sides, is sufficient indictment.

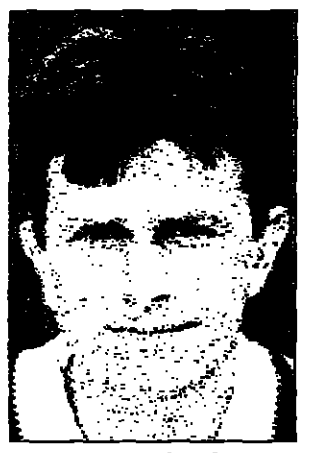
Evans, Franks, Bowen, Tolley and Bates — the bowling line-up at Hartlepool — must rank as one of the most anonymous and innocuous attacks of recent years. Mohammad Zahid, Cairns's replacement, may take some wickets if and when he shakes off niggling injuries but he remains a prime example of a club snatching at an overseas player for the sake of having one.

The problems do not end there. Highly promising young players, such as Matt Dowman, Usman Afzaal and Jimmy Hindson have simply not trained on at Trent Bridge and people are entitled to wonder why. There is a pervasive dourness about the image of the club, which may not help, and for a big county with a much-loved Test ground, Nottinghamshire are in a deepening mess.

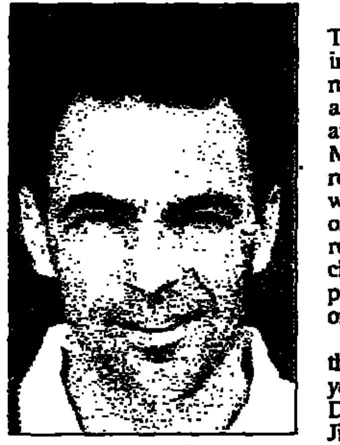
They managed a solitary championship win last year and may have a considerable wait for one this time around. They do not, for instance, meet Sussex until the final match of the season, by which time spirit is annually the decisive factor among those teams with nothing to play for but pride.

And this, for all the brave words of their new men at the helm, will assuredly be the fate of Sussex, for they plainly lack the resources to be competitive in a four-day environment. With some burgeoning youngsters and a healthy defiance of the general inclination to write them off, Sussex may get by in limited-overs cricket: may even surprise a few. But there is no escape in the modern championship, which is how it should be, and they were dreadfully exposed at Lord's this week by a Middlesex side some way short of peak form.

Sussex, too, were grateful for the rain, which fell just as an innings defeat looked inevitable. Every other venue, bar Bristol, ended the same way, so the championship table after two rounds has an unusually lame look to it. Nothing that has occurred yet has indicated which county will win the title: but enough has been seen for us to be certain of several who will not.



Evans: loyal



Robinson: best batsman

Late finishes herald Sussex's new dawn

SAY what you like about Sussex — and a good deal will be said if they go on playing as they did at Lord's this week — but they are not short of positive ideas (Alan Lee writes). The "old fartism" that dominated the club for generations is now tolerated only so long as it sits in the corner in benign silence.

Now that the new committee is in place and includes businessmen such as Don Trangmar, a director of Marks & Spencer, in addition to John Snow and John Spencer, both former players, expect some action that the Sussex of old would have regarded as unacceptably radical.

One early example of the forward thinking will be a proposal to play some midsummer county championship cricket during hours when more people can watch it. Sussex, keenly aware that their regular patronage is predominantly elderly and determined to appeal to a younger audience, want to start some of their four-day games at 1pm and play through to 8.30pm.

The notion, one of a number formulated by the sharp mind of Tony Pigott, the new chief executive, is designed to attract people who work nine-to-five and could therefore see half a day's cricket straight from the office.

It is an extension of the floodlit cricket exercise, revived by Surrey and taken up enthusiastically this summer by both Warwickshire and Sussex. All three are to stage Axa Life League fixtures on midweek evenings, probably with a 5pm start, and the prospect of a nasty fall-out between two of the experimenters has, thankfully, been avoided.

Sussex had initially decided upon their mid-June fixture with Essex as the ideal night match. Approval had been obtained from the England and Wales Cricket Board and a sponsor was lined up when Surrey made contact with a plea for a postponement.

Surrey's floodlit fixture is against Nottinghamshire on Friday, June 27. It will have television coverage and sponsorship which, apparently, were dependent on it being the first of its kind, a boast that Sussex's plans would have scuppered.

After some debate, Sussex agreed to back down and will not now be shaking up the citizens of Hove with lights, music and all things modern until the end of August. Their opponents, appropriately, will be Surrey.

BEN RADFORD / ALLSPORT

Wright, who enjoyed success in suits as well as whites, is again devoted to the business of winning matches

Wright keen to open new chapter

Pat Gibson discovers a hardened edge to the 'nice guy' image of the Kent coach

Nice guys, they say, finish last, but it would be wise not to bet on that this summer. There are plenty of nice guys in cricket and none nicer than John Wright, the former New Zealand captain who has just returned to the English game as coach and manager of Kent.

Everybody likes him, even those bowlers who had so much difficulty prising him from the crease during a 19-year playing career that included 88 Test matches and 12 years in county cricket with Derbyshire. He is not just a nice guy, though; he is a hard guy, a left-handed opening batsman who stood up unflinchingly to the fastest bowlers in the world for the best part of two decades. He is an unyielding guy who once glued his top hand to the bat handle to make a point about his technique.

He is an intelligent guy who went straight from cricket into a management job with a leading multinational company. He is a competitive guy, who within three years was in charge of sales and distribution for a food manufacturing firm. And he is a passionate guy, who has now given up his burgeoning business career for the game he loves.

He was sitting at his office desk in Christchurch when he received a telephone call from England telling him that Kent were looking for a replacement for Daryl Foster, their Australian coach. Now he is trying to come to terms with the difference between playing, which he was still doing only four years ago, and coaching, which is almost entirely new to him.

"It was quite a big career decision," Wright, 42, with a wife and two young children, said, with considerable understatement. He was believed to have turned down a similar career move with Derbyshire last year. "I suppose I had always wanted an opportunity to coach as long as it was the right opportunity," he said.

"In New Zealand, opportunities like this are non-existent unless you are coaching the national side, and I thought this was as good as I was going to get. I very much enjoyed my time as a county cricketer and I knew Kent because I played for them before I joined Derbyshire in 1976. I also knew that they were very keen and passionate about their cricket, and while I am sure that brings a lot of expectation and pressure to produce results, there is nothing wrong with that."

Wright believes that his business experience will help him in that respect. "I have seen life outside cricket," he said, "and I think that is very important because business can be even more focused and competitive than sport.

"Basically, when you look at most successful businesses and successful teams, many of the factors are very similar. You do have a structure, you do have discipline, you do have accountability, you do review your performance, you do make changes when necessary, you do try and create a culture.

"There is not a lot of difference, really. It is just a different game. Things happen more quickly out in the middle and instead of looking at the weekly sales results I will be looking at the county championship table. Instead of shareholders to satisfy, I have now got members."

Kent supporters should not be disappointed. Wright's experience as a coach may be limited to the odd certificate and helping out at the recently established New Zealand cricket academy, but he has a profound knowledge of the game and a philosophy that he has already spelt out to his players. "It is very different and very new to me," he said. "I am untried and untested, but Kent have taken a punt on me and I am looking forward to the challenge.

"The thing that I loved most about Test cricket was being able to compete with the very best, and the thing that I value most about players is the desire to compete. Things like promise, talent, ability, you can have all of them, but unless you have the instinct, the attitude and the total single-mindedness to achieve and compete, you will not get very far."

A nice guy? "I don't think that niceness comes into it really," Wright said. "It is when you are not hard and competitive that you are going to come last."

Lancashire's source of cup success runs dry

BY ALAN LEE

LANCASHIRE have made a moribund start to the season and will relinquish the first of the two cups they hold today with elimination from the Benson and Hedges Cup. Technically, they could still reach the quarter-finals, but it requires such a mind-boggling coincidence of scores and results that the prospect cannot be taken seriously.

Victory over Worcestershire, in their final group match at Old Trafford, would not in itself be enough. Lancashire would need to make a record total to boost their inferior run-rate and then rely on Warwickshire beating Derbyshire in a low-scoring affair at Derby. It is all too fanciful. Lancashire are out and deservedly so.

What has gone wrong? Well, an injury or two, certainly, but there is more to it than that. The Lancashire batting has lacked conviction, with Atherton and Crawley particularly barren. They have not made the totals to dominate games as they did through a run of 15 ties unbeaten while winning the competition twice in succession.

Elimination, though, may be no bad thing. Perhaps they can now be faithful to the pledge plastered on the noticeboards of the pavilion and concentrate on fulfilling their potential in the county championship. In an attempt to mirror the intimidation of the Anfield tunnel, there is now a bold sign on the stairs to the dressing-rooms announcing "This is Old Trafford". They must now play some cricket to justify it.

Yorkshire will guarantee themselves a home quarter-final, providing they beat Minor Counties at Headingley today, while the game at Derby should be a straight eliminator. In the other groups, Essex, Kent and Leicestershire remain unbeaten and favourites to go through as winners.

Surrey, many people's idea of the likely winners, are not yet certain to progress but only an improbably heavy defeat by Sussex at the Oval will dislodge them from a place in the last eight on May 27.

Group A

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Yorkshire	4	3	1	0	6	4.73
Derbyshire	4	3	1	0	6	3.55
Warwickshire	4	2	2	0	4	18.97
Lancashire	4	2	2	0	4	-1.84
Worcestershire	4	2	2	0	4	-4.53
Minor Counties	4	0	3	0	0	-20.15

Group B

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Leicestershire	3	3	0	0	6	29.99
Durham	4	2	2	0	4	14.74
Northants	3	2	1	0	4	6.19
Notts	3	1	2	0	2	-13.07
Scotland	3	0	3	0	0	-51.27

Group C

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Kent	4	4	0	0	8	9.85
Surrey	4	3	1	0	6	25.26
Gloucestershire	4	2	2	0	4	7.06
Sussex	4	2	2	0	4	0.72
British Univs	4	1	3	0	2	-21.94
Hampshire	4	0	4	0	0	-20.06

Group D

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	RR
Essex	3	3	0	0	6	8.54
Somerset	3	2	1	0	4	37.17
Glamorgan	4	2	2	0	2	-6.83
Ireland	3	1	2	0	2	-32.62
Middlesex	3	0	3	0	0	-6.00

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Surrey

DERBY (final day of four): Derbyshire (7pts) drew with Surrey (6)

SURREY: First Innings 267 (G P Thorpe 83, M P Bicknell 74; D E Malcolm 4 for 95).

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

A S Rollins c Lewis b M P Bicknell	0
G A Khan not out	62
C J Adams lbw b M P Bicknell	14
*D M Jones c Thorpe b Benjamin	43
V P Clarke not out	10
Extras (lb 11, nb 18)	29
Total (3 wkts, 39.4 overs)	158

M E Cassar, †K M Krikken, P A J DeFreitas, K J Dean, A J Harris and D E Malcolm did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-24, 3-141.

BOWLING: M P Bicknell 8-1-38-2; Lewis 5-0-25-0; Tudor 2-0-20-0; Hollioake 3-0-12-0; Benjamin 11.4-3-29-1; Salisbury 9-2-23-0

Umpires: A A Jones and B Dudleston.

Durham v Nottinghamshire

HARTLEPOOL (final day of four): Durham (10pts) drew with Nottinghamshire (7)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 170 (C M Tolley 54; A Walker 7 for 56).

Second Innings

P R Pollard c Boiling b Killeen	5
R T Robinson c Boiling b Walker	69
G F Archer lbw b Boiling	20
M N Bowen c Boon b Brown	7
M P Dowman c Boon b Foster	10
*P Johnson c Lewis b Boiling	34
C M Tolley not out	37
†W M Noon not out	13
Extras (lb 3, nb 2)	5
Total (6 wkts)	200

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-60, 3-88, 4-106, 5-150, 6-150.

BOWLING: Brown 22-7-57-1; Killeen 13-2-24-1, Walker 10-2-50-1, Boiling 21.1-12-32-2; Boon 3-1-7-0; Foster 5-0-21-1; Collingwood 1-0-6-0

DURHAM: First Innings 331 (N J Speak 93, D C Boon 68).

Umpires: R Julian and J F Steele.

Gloucestershire v Hampshire

BRISTOL (final day of four): Gloucestershire (24pts) beat Hampshire (6) by six wickets

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 318 (S D Udal 56, R A Smith 52; A M Smith 4 for 61).

Second Innings

J S Laney lbw b Smith	9
M L Hayden c Ball b Smith	0
*J P Stephenson c Hancock b Ball	8
R A Smith c Russell b Alleyne	36
W S Kendall c Russell b Lawrence	20
†A N Aymes lbw b Smith	10
S D Udal lbw b Smith	14
A D Mascarenhas c Alleyne b Smith	21
S J Renshaw lbw b Smith	7
C A Connor not out	11
M Keech absent	0
Extras (b 5, lb 2, nb 2)	9
Total	145

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-12, 3-21, 4-72, 5-80, 6-102, 7-113, 8-132, 9-145.

BOWLING: Smith 22-5-45-6; Lawrence 8-3-15-1; Young 21-8-48-0; Ball 8-3-18-1; Alleyne 8-2-14-1

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 403 (S Young 73, R C Russell 68, M W Alleyne 62, M A Lynch 62; J P Stephenson 4 for 81).

Second Innings

A J Wright c Aymes b Renshaw	10
N J Trainor lbw b Renshaw	26
T H C Hancock b Renshaw	5
M A Lynch lbw b Renshaw	10
*M W Alleyne not out	3
S Young not out	4
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (4 wkts)	59

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-28, 3-51, 4-54.

BOWLING: Hayden 5-0-20-0; Renshaw 6-0-30-4; Mascarenhas 1.4-0-8-0.

Umpires: G I Burgess and R A White.

Middlesex v Sussex

LORD'S (final day of four): Middlesex (11pts) drew with Sussex (5)

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 490 for 9 dec (M R Ramprakash 145, K R Brown 144 not out; A A Khan 5 for 137).

SUSSEX: First Innings 187 (C W J Athey 60 not out; J P Hewitt 4 for 60).

Second Innings

M T E Peirce c Brown b Tufnell	28
K Greenfield b Hewitt	0
N R Taylor c Wellings b Tufnell	14
C W J Athey b Hewitt	31
K Newell not out	23
R K Rao c Brown b Hewitt	0
V C Drakes c Weekes b Hewitt	0
*†P Moores not out	7
Extras (b 4, lb 6, w 4, nb 2)	16
Total (6 wkts)	119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-38, 3-73, 4-97, 5-97, 6-97

BOWLING: Kallis 6-2-15-0; Hewitt 15-5-24-4; Johnson 9-2-24-0; Fraser 11.3-2-33-0; Tufnell 15-10-8-2; Weekes 1-0-5-0

Umpires: V A Holder and J H Hampshire.

Northamptonshire v Somerset

NORTHAMPTON (final day of four): Northamptonshire (7pts) drew with Somerset (9)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 185 (K M Curran 73; A R Caddick 6 for 65)

Second Innings

R R Montgomerie not out	33
M B Loye c Kerr b Shine	10
*R J Bailey lbw b Rose	7
K M Curran b Caddick	18
A L Penberthy c Turner b Caddick	37
D J Capel c Lathwell b Rose	1
J N Snape not out	4
Extras (b 4, lb 4, nb 4)	12
Total (5 wkts)	122

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-38, 3-65, 4-115, 5-118.

BOWLING: Caddick 17-2-70-2; Shine 6-2-8-1; Rose 10-4-17-2; Ahmed 4-2-9-0; Kerr 4-1-10-0.

SOMERSET: First Innings 290 (G D Rose 109 not out, M Burns 82; Mohammed Akram 5 for 72).

Umpires: T E Jesty and B J Meyer.

Yorkshire v Glamorgan

HEADINGLEY (final day of four): Yorkshire (8pts) drew with Glamorgan (10)

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 338 (S P James 109, R D B Croft 67, H Morris 55; D Gough 5 for 56).

Second Innings

S P James b Stemp	52
H Morris b Vaughan	98
A Dale not out	10
*M P Maynard not out	0
Extras (b 4, nb 4)	8
Total (2 wkts dec)	168

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-110, 2-168.

BOWLING: Gough 6-0-33-0; Stemp 18-5-35-1; Vaughan 10-1-50-1; Silverwood 5-0-27-0; Hamilton 3-0-17-0

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 200 for 8 dec (D S Lehmann 54; R D B Croft 4 for 58).

Umpires: B Leadbeater and D R Shepherd.

No play

WORCESTER (final day of four): Worcestershire 257 (K R Spiring 55; A D Mullally 4-66). Leicestershire 69 (P J Newport 7-37) and 141-4 (N C Johnson 87 not out). Worcestershire (9pts) drew with Leicestershire (7).

Curtis hails healthy impact of four-day revolution

BY SIMON WILDE

ANYONE who thinks English cricket has not made great strides in recent years should listen to the tale of Tim Curtis, who is retiring this summer after a distinguished career for Worcestershire, with whom he won two championships and four one-day trophies.

He was educated well, academically and in cricket, and has always considered the game's broader interests, a fact recognised by the seven years he was granted as chairman of the Cricketers' Association and three as Worcestershire captain. He played five times for England.

Curtis "made" it as a player, but for a time it was touch-and-go. He first appeared for Worcestershire in 1979, at the age of 19, in the era of three-day cricket, countless overseas players and contrived finishes. He spent much of his first seven championship matches watching Glenn Turner score six centuries and barely got to the crease.

"When I started playing Somerset possessed Viv Richards and Joel Garner, and with Ian Botham and Vic Marks also in the side, you were facing something like a Test attack," he said. "You might say that the game was stronger in those days but, in terms of overall standard and competitive feel, county cricket has greatly improved.

"We have only been playing fully professional cricket in this country for 35 years and it took a long time for the championship to produce cut-and-thrust cricket. The four-day game has been good for that. Every run scored, wicket and catch taken, is fought for and the standard is improving all the time. The positives are coming through. There is time to practise between matches and a growing demand for good practice facilities.

"There is also more logic to a championship in which every team plays the others once. It was no coincidence that when Worcestershire won the title in 1988 and 1989 we played six teams twice and these included Gloucestershire and Glamorgan, who were not strong."

Predictably, in view of his early experiences, Curtis quickly resolved to make himself into an opening batsman. The role seemed to suit his temperament, even though it proved a far from smooth process.

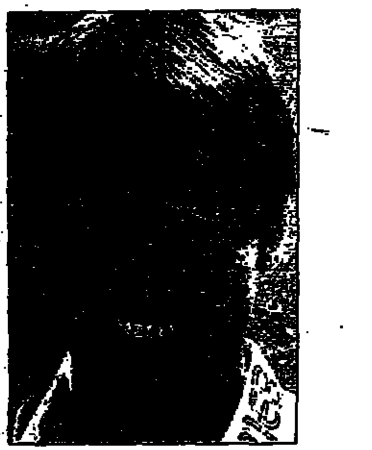
His first championship century did not come until 1984 but, in the end, he took centuries off all Worcestershire's county opponents and scored more than 20,000 runs in all first-class matches at an average of 40.

One of the steps taken by the Cricketers' Association during Curtis's chairmanship was to encourage its members to develop careers outside the game. "If one of the present proposals under consideration is adopted, young players will increasingly join counties as semi-professionals with outside jobs," he said.

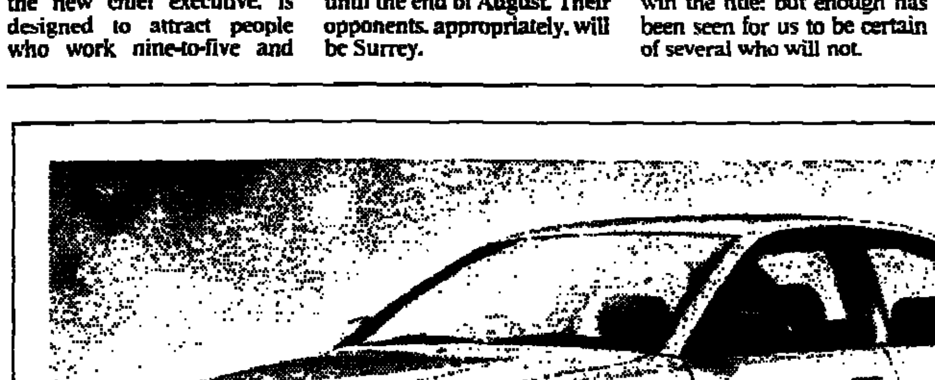
"They will play at weekends and take a day off to play during the week. The counties will then be able to find out about them without cutting them off from other work."

Curtis could hardly have been chosen for England at worse times, coming into sides that were losing heavily to West Indies in 1988 and Australia in 1989, the year in which an unofficial party was being secretly assembled to tour South Africa. "We knew there were rebels within the team but did not know who they were," he said.

"My abiding memory is of us watching the county scores on Ceefax in the dressing-room. I may have felt it more because Worcestershire were doing well, but I think we all took solace in our county's fortunes. I don't look back and think I should have played more times for my country. If I do have a regret, it is that I did not show more confidence. I would have loved to smack the ball around like Hick. I should have relaxed more."



Curtis: bowing out



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Middlesex cruise to Sunday League victory with Ramprakash firmly at the helm

Fraser rips the heart out of feeble Sussex

By Michael Henderson

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Middlesex (4pts) beat Sussex by seven wickets

THE yellow shirts that Sussex wear on Sundays have served as a fitting commentary on the cricket they have played at Lord's this week. They avoided an overwhelming defeat in the championship match that finished on Saturday only because rain ripped out more than a day's play. Yesterday, they lost by a country mile in the Axa Life League because they could make no more than 131 for nine.

Middlesex won easily, having 11 overs to spare when they reached their revised target of 129 in 38 overs. It was their first victory of the season, coming after a run of four defeats in one-day cricket, including that Benson and Hedges Cup loss in Dublin, and a draw in the championship. Mark Ramprakash maintained his fluent early-season form with an unbeaten half-century.

It was not an ideal pitch for one-day cricket and Mike Gatting's decision to ask Sussex to bat first on it was justified when his bowlers threatened to run through their batting for a song. That Sussex managed to complete their 40-over allocation owed eveything to an unbeaten last-wicket stand of 39 by Mark Robinson and Amer Khan.

At the end of a frightful week Sussex could point to that stand with a measure of pride, or, if not pride, amusement. To find Sussex's previous best last-wicket stand in Sunday cricket you must go back to 1969, the first year of the competition, when John Snow and Don Bates made an unbeaten 37 against Hampshire at Hove. To be honest, it does not mean a lot. Sunday cricket, when it is played this poorly, early in the season, on a fairly cheerless day, is a miserable experience.

Angus Fraser might not agree. He has been searching high and low for wickets to kick-start his benefit year, one that is bound to be well-rewarded given his excellent service to Middlesex and England over the past decade. Watching him bowl is an entertainment all by itself because he never bothers to disguise his feelings.

After Ricky Fay had taken two of the first three wickets, bowling his eight overs unchanged at the start of the innings, Fraser burst into action at the Pavilion End. By the time he had finished, Sussex were down and out at 90 for eight and he had taken three for ten from eight overs. Peter Moores was bowled neck and crop, Paul Jarvis hoiked one to deep square leg and Nick Phillips carved to third man, where Scott Moffat held a good running catch.

It was not the strongest Sussex side, although it is increasingly difficult to know what is. Rather like the governess in *The King and I*, recruits in their dressing-room must feel it is a case of "getting to know you, getting to know all about you; getting to like you, hoping that you like me".

There was a Newell out there yesterday, a chap called Pyemont and another callow youth by the name of Strong. With a Rao, and a Khan, and a hey-nonny-no, spectators should keep a *Playfair* by their beds this year when planning a day watching Sussex. Desmond Haynes, who said when he was appointed the club's coach last year that he would write letters to all the players on their birthday, is going to be one very busy man.

Newell was the top scorer yesterday, making 21, all but two of them in singles. That is the stuff to bring back the crowds! Then, after Sussex fell away to 92 for nine, there was the glorious spectacle of Robinson batting out eight overs, exceeding his previous Sunday-best score, seven, as he did so.

It was not the best pitch for strokeplayers but it was still a feeble effort to make no more than 131. Even though Weekes and Kallis went early, before rain lopped two overs off the Middlesex reply, Gatting and Ramprakash had few difficulties. They came together as a rainbow appeared over Regent's Park and, though their batting was not so colourful, they made 95 in 18 overs to put the result beyond doubt.

Gatting pulled Khan to deep backward square leg when he would rather have finished with an asterisk against his name. Ramprakash went calmly to his fifty, driving Khan over long-on for a six to go with five fours — as many as Sussex managed between them — and ended the game with a sixth, picked up over mid-wicket. When other batsmen are struggling to make runs he is making them left, right and centre and that is all a batsman can do.

One thing is for sure. Sussex could do with somebody like him. Please, no more excuses from the South Coast. If they want to put this wretched week behind them they should try looking in the mirror.

Johnson at gallop 36
Lynch's assault 36
League scores 40

TABLE

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Yorkshire (3)	2	2	0	0	0	8	24.71
Lancashire (9)	2	2	0	0	0	8	18.77
Kent (10)	2	2	0	0	0	8	17.91
Essex (17)	2	2	0	0	0	8	14.78
Notts (2)	3	2	1	0	0	8	5.10
Gloucs (16)	2	1	0	0	1	6	59.52
Northants (6)	3	1	1	0	1	6	6.05
Somerset (5)	3	1	1	0	1	6	3.23
Surrey (1)	3	1	1	0	1	6	-2.58
Worcs (8)	2	1	1	0	0	4	0.52
Warwicks (4)	2	1	1	0	0	4	-0.53
Middlesex (7)	2	1	1	0	0	4	-0.53
Glamorgan (13)	3	1	2	0	0	4	-1.47
Leics (12)	2	1	1	0	0	4	-31.25
Derbys (11)	3	0	2	0	1	2	-18.33
Hants (15)	3	0	2	0	1	2	-25.03
Sussex (14)	3	0	3	0	0	0	-20.52
Durham (18)	2	0	2	0	0	0	-23.91

(Last season's positions in brackets)

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Moores is comprehensively bowled by Fraser as the Sussex innings collapses at Lord's yesterday

Careful Habib makes the difference

By Simon Wilde

WORCESTER (Worcestershire won toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Worcestershire by six runs

LEICESTERSHIRE exacted a measure of revenge for their embarrassment in the championship fixture at New Road by upsetting Worcestershire, old hands at the one-day game, in a truncated Axa Life League match yesterday, a spate of rainfalls preventing a start until 5.20pm. After a most unpromising start — at one point they were 27 for six — they ran out winners in a 16-overs thrash with something to spare.

Worcestershire began the last over, bowled by Maddy, requiring 15 runs to reach their target of 99, but they could managed only eight and finished on 92 for nine. In reality, they lost the match earlier in the innings, when they were shocked at the swift loss of Moody and Hick. They were tied down by disciplined bowling and several batsmen perished in attempts to break free.

Leicestershire also won because they possessed the one batsman, Aftab Habib, who was able to produce an innings of substance in such a frenetic game, but they did themselves no favours by responding to being asked to bat first by shuffling their order bewilderingly. Whitaker kept himself back to No 7 and Maddy to No 8 and no one but Habib seemed to have the first idea of what to do.

They lost three wickets in the third over and one each in the fourth, sixth and eighth overs, at which point the score was 27 for six. If they sent in men to hit Newport off his length, it did not work. Wells and Smith, in his first innings of the season, were both bowled driving loosely and their running between the wickets descended into chaos after a fine piece of anticipation by Leatherdale had led to the running out of Dakin.

Nixon, Whitaker and Macmillan were subsequently also run out, all by substantial distances. They will not want to reflect on any of them, but they would be wise to remember for future reference that Spiring and Solanki have fine arms.

It was Habib, who was the only man who bothered to play himself in, who gave Leicestershire something to defend with a creative, unbeaten 45 from 43 balls, with two sixes and three fours. Once he was finally joined by Maddy, 40 runs came in 22 balls, with an over from Sheriyar costing 14 runs and another from Brinkley 17.

This season, Habib is fulfilling the promise he showed last year, but he was frustrated at how little of the strike he commanded towards the end of the innings. He showed the sharpness of his eye, though, by stepping across to pick up a ball well outside off stump from Sheriyar and dispatch it through wide mid on.

Worcestershire's start was not much more auspicious than that of their opponents. Moody and Hick strode out with great purpose, as though intent on scoring the runs themselves, and few would have bet against them. Yet, within four overs, both had departed to the extra bounce of Mullally, who caught Moody himself off a leading edge and saw Hick steer a cut into the hands of Johnson, thus maintaining his miserable start to the season.

Taylor fails as Waugh warms up for Ashes defence

By Our Sports Staff

MARK WAUGH scored 116 in 66 balls to power Australia to an easy victory over a Rest of the World XI in Hong Kong yesterday. Australia, chasing 245 in 40 overs, reached their target in only 28 overs. Waugh's hundred, made in 91 minutes, included 11 fours and nine sixes on the short boundaries of the Kowloon Cricket Club.

Waugh was given early support by his brother, Steve, also in boundary-making form, after the visitors had made a shaky start losing their out-of-form skipper, Mark Taylor, caught behind for four.

To the raucous cheers of Australian spectators, Waugh reached his century with an enormous six, dispatching the yellow ball on to an adjoining bowling green where a ladies' match was in progress. A pitch invasion ensued, in which an Australian supporter presented the batsman with a glass of chilled lager.

Australia, en route to England where they will defend the Ashes, reached 248 for six, claiming the Super Challenge Cup in the first one-day international held in Hong Kong.

The Rest of the World reached a respectable total, thanks to the efforts of the Indians, Rohan Gavaskar (51) and Sanjay Manjrekar (80), and some punchy play by the middle order, including some rather agricultural swings.

Taylor admitted that he faced a big challenge in the opening weeks of the Ashes tour. He said on Saturday that he would drop himself from the Test side if he failed to rediscover his form.

"I've got a month to prove to myself and the other selectors that I am one of the two best opening batsmen in this side," he said.

Scotland yesterday switched their Benson and Hedges Cup match against Nottinghamshire today from Titwood to Grange Cricket Club in Edinburgh because of a waterlogged pitch.

Gates open on new facilities

By Our Sports Staff

THEY officially opened the Dennis Brookes Gates at Northamptonshire's County Ground yesterday, but not many people passed through them as a succession of heavy showers washed out their Axa Life League game against Somerset.

The gates, bearing the name of a man who has served Northamptonshire for 60 years as player, captain, coach, finance administrator, committee member and captain, and a new wall at the Abington Avenue end of the ground effectively complete the work made necessary by the departure of Northampton Town Football Club three years ago.

At Derby, a thoroughly miserable five days at the Racecourse Ground ended with the Axa Life League game between Derbyshire and Surrey going the same way as their county championship meeeting.

The teams spent four-fifths of the time kicking their heels in the changing rooms, culminated in a final curtain at 5pm yesterday afternoon.

Numerous pitch inspections by Barry Dudleston and Allan Jones, the umpires, held out a faint hope of a start at 5.30pm, but torrential rain then followed a cloudburst in the early afternoon and there was no option but to settle for a no-result.

Teams will be hoping for a change in the weather for the final round of Benson and Hedges Cup games today.

Middlesex have added Ricky Fay and David Nash as they search for their first win in this year's competition against Somerset at Lord's.

Vasbert Drakes, the fast bowler, and Keith Newell, the batsman, are both doubtful for Sussex's crucial game against Surrey at the Oval.

Drakes suffered a side injury and Newell a pulled hamstring in the drawn county championship match against Middlesex.

If Newell is unfit he may be replaced by his 23-year-old younger brother, Mark, and James Pyemont, the teenaged batsman, could also be considered for his debut in the competition.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

AXA Life League

Durham v Nottinghamshire

HARTLEPOOL (Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire (4pts) beat Durham by nine wickets

DURHAM

J E Morris c Bates b Evans 2
†M P Speight c Pollard b Bates 42
*D C Boon run out 27
M J Foster c Noon b Tolley 1
N J Speak c Gie b Bowen 32
J J B Lewis run out 4
P D Collingwood c Johnson b Evans 19
S J E Brown c Noon b Bowen 0
J Boiling not out 4
N Killeen not out 1
Extras (b 4, lb 7, w 12) 23
Total (8 wkts, 23 overs) 155

A Walker did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-45, 3-58, 4-104, 5-111, 6-136, 7-137, 8-147.

BOWLING: Evans 5-0-28-2; Tolley 5-0-26-1; Bowen 5-0-35-2; Bates 4-0-22-1; Dowman 4-0-33-0.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

M P Dowman c and b Brown 26
R T Robinson not out 46
*P Johnson not out 74
Extras (lb 3, w 4, nb 4) 11
Total (1 wkt, 18.4 overs) 157

G F Archer, P R Pollard, N A Gie, C M Tolley, K P Evans, †W M Noon, R T Bates and M N Bowen did not bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-56.

PAR SCORE: 154 from 23 overs

BOWLING: Brown 5-0-37-1; Killeen 3-0-36-0; Sub 4-0-28-0; Boiling 3-0-21-0, Foster 3-0-28-0; Collingwood 0.4-0-4-0.

Umpires: R Julian and J F Steele.

Gloucestershire v Hampshire

BRISTOL (Gloucestershire won toss): No result. Gloucestershire (2pts) Hampshire (2)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

M A Lynch not out 88
A J Wright c Aymes b Udal 4
S Young c Stephenson b Udal 2
†R C Russell c Aymes b Kendall 1
*M W Alleyne c Hayden b Mascarenhas 33
T H C Hancock c Hayden b Laney 2
R J Cunliffe not out 0
Extras (w 7, nb 2) 9
Total (5 wkts, 16 overs) 139

N J Trainor, M C J Ball, A M Smith and K P Sheeraz did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-17, 3-18, 4-115, 5-123

BOWLING: Laney 4-0-25-1, Udal 3-0-26-2; Kendall 3-0-18-1; Whitaker 3-0-36-0; Mascarenhas 3-0-36-1.

HAMPSHIRE: M L Hayden, *J P Stephenson, R A Smith, †A N Aymes, S D Udal, K D James, S J Renshaw, A D Mascarenhas, W S Kendall, J S Laney, P R Whitaker.

Umpires: G I Burgess and R A White

Middlesex v Sussex

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Middlesex (4pts) beat Sussex by seven wickets (D/L Method)

SUSSEX

K Greenfield c Kallis b Hewitt 13
R K Rao lbw b Fay 10
N R Taylor b Fay 10
M Newell c Weekes b Kallis 21
J P Pyemont c Gatting b Weekes 1
*†P Moores b Fraser 4
P W Jarvis c Ramprakash b Fraser 4
N C Phillips c Moffat b Fraser 3
A A Khan not out 22
M R Strong b Kallis 1
M A Robinson not out 9
Extras (lb 15, w 16, nb 2) 33
Total (9 wkts, 40 overs) 131

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-44, 3-54, 4-58, 5-71, 6-84, 7-87, 8-90, 9-92

BOWLING: Hewitt 6-0-24-1; Fay 8-1-23-2; Dutch 4-0-8-0; Weekes 8-0-32-1; Fraser 8-2-10-3; Kallis 6-0-19-2.

MIDDLESEX

P N Weekes c Newell b Jarvis 4
J H Kallis lbw b Robinson 10
M R Ramprakash not out 57
*M W Gatting c Jarvis b Khan 34
J C Pooley not out 4
Extras (lb 2, w 15, nb 6) 23
Total (3 wkts, 27 overs) 132

†K R Brown, S P Moffat, K P Dutch, J P Hewitt, R A Fay and A R C Fraser did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-20, 3-115.

PAR SCORE: 129 from 38 overs.

BOWLING: Jarvis 7-0-35-1; Robinson 8-0-27-1; Phillips 3-0-14-0; Strong 3-0-23-0; Khan 6-0-31-1.

Umpires: J H Hampshire and V A Holder.

Worcestershire v Leicestershire

WORCESTER (Worcestershire won toss): Leicestershire (4pts) beat Worcestershire by six runs

LEICESTERSHIRE

N C Johnson c Spiring b Newport 11
V J Wells b Newport 6
J M Dakin run out 0
†P A Nixon run out 2
A Habib not out 45
B F Smith b Haynes 0
*J J Whitaker run out 4
G I Macmillan run out 9
D L Maddy c Hick b Leatherdale 14
G J Parsons not out 1
Extras (lb 4, w 2) 6
Total (8 wkts, 16 overs) 98

A D Mullally did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-18, 3-19, 4-20, 5-23, 6-27, 7-44, 8-84

BOWLING: Newport 4-0-15-2; Haynes 3-0-9-1; Brinkley 3-0-26-0; Leatherdale 3-0-18-1; Sheriyar 3-0-26-0

WORCESTERSHIRE

*T M Moody c and b Mullally 2
G A Hick c Johnson b Mullally 8
V S Solanki c Habib b Parsons 7
W P C Weston c Dakin b Parsons 11
G R Haynes lbw b Dakin 10
D A Leatherdale c Habib b Dakin 8
K R Spiring not out 20
†S J Rhodes c Macmillan b Maddy 0
P J Newport b Johnson 7
J E Brinkley run out 7
A Sheriyar not out 0
Extras (lb 4, w 2, nb 6) 12
Total (9 wkts, 16 overs) 92

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-11, 3-33, 4-35, 5-54, 6-54, 7-55, 8-69, 9-91

PAR SCORE: 99 from 16 overs

BOWLING: Parsons 4-0-9-2, Mullally 3-0-24-2; Johnson 3-0-17-1; Maddy 3-0-17-1; Dakin 3-0-21-2.

Umpires: J W Holder and K E Palmer.

Yorkshire v Glamorgan

HEADINGLEY (Yorkshire won toss). Yorkshire (4pts) beat Glamorgan by seven wickets

GLAMORGAN

S P James c White b Stemp 9
H Morris c White b Stemp 32
A Dale c Blakey b Hartley 18
*M P Maynard c Gough b Stemp 21
P A Cottey b Gough 59
R D B Croft c and b Hartley 28
G P Butcher not out 6
†A D Shaw not out 8
Extras (lb 5, w 3, nb 2) 10
Total (6 wkts, 32 overs) 192

Waqar Younis, S L Watkin and O T Parkin did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-52, 3-84, 4-86, 5-169, 6-180.

BOWLING: Silverwood 6-0-38-0; Gough 7-0-33-1; Stemp 7-0-32-3; White 6-0-38-0; Hartley 6-1-46-2.

YORKSHIRE

*D Byas c Morris b Dale 83
M P Vaughan b Parkin 37
P J Hartley c Morris b Butcher 23
D S Lehmann not out 33
†R J Blakey not out 3
Extras (lb 5, w 5, nb 4) 14
Total (3 wkts, 26.3 overs) 193

B Parker, A McGrath, C White, D Gough, C E W Silverwood and R D Stemp did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-84, 2-132, 3-177.

PAR SCORE: 193 from 32 overs

BOWLING: Watkin 4-0-23-0; Waqar Younis 4-0-29-0; Croft 4-0-34-0; Parkin 5-0-33-1; Butcher 5-0-45-1, Dale 4-0-22-1; Maynard 0.3-0-2-0

Umpires: B Leadbeater and D R Shepherd.

No play

Derby: Derbyshire v Surrey. Northampton: Northamptonshire v Somerset. Matches abandoned two points each side.

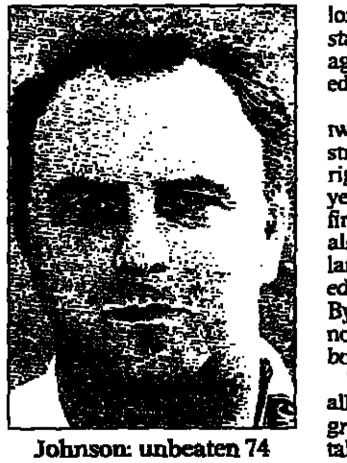
Johnson has the right formula

By Ivo Tennant

HARTLEPOOL (Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire (4pts) beat Durham by nine wickets (D/L method)

IN AN Axa Life match of 23 overs a side, Durham, who were put in, made 155 for eight. Nottinghamshire were thus left to score 154 to win. If anybody on the ground understood this logic — the scorers took 15 minutes to settle on this computation — it was not apparent. Duckworth Lewis are making for a baffling duo.

The public-address announcer had a stab at explaining this new system for resolving run rates required for rain-affected limited overs matches, but, wisely, desisted. Besides, the crowd was much more concerned with the relegation from the FA Carling Premiership of Middlesbrough and Sunderland. Nottinghamshire won with 26 balls to spare, Paul Johnson making an unbeaten 74 off 42 balls with 13 fours.



Johnson: unbeaten 74

The Association of County Cricket Scorers has already made it clear that it is none too happy at having to grapple with this complex system. Some among its number are of pensionable age and they found coping with computerisation difficult enough when it was introduced in 1993. One scorer, who is now dead, failed to comprehend that his computer would not work if he used the "mouse" upside down.

Anyway, 154 was what Nottinghamshire required to win, and that was what they got. Last year they finished runners-up in this competition and, if they continue to bat and bowl like this, they should do well once more. Johnson and Robinson put on an unbeaten 105 for the second wicket in a mere 11 overs. The manner in which they found the gaps in the field was exemplary.

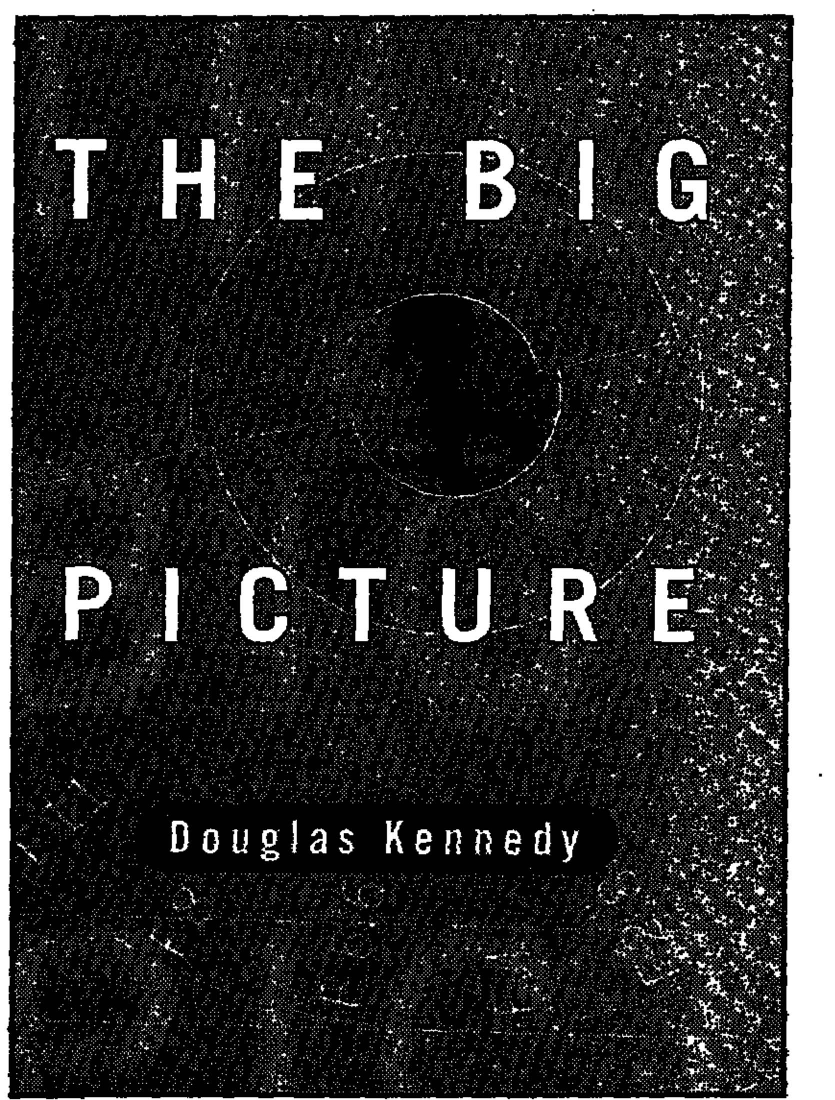
Durham, as was evident last season, do not possess the kind of niggardly attack necessary to excel in this form of the game. Robinson and Dowman began with 56 off seven overs before the latter drove a return catch to Brown. Johnson, no doubt irked by a suggestion in the national press from a former opponent that Nottinghamshire are no longer worthy of first-class status, played a splendidly aggressive innings of calculated drives and pulls.

Killeen and Foster were the two bowlers in particular who struggled to maintain the right length. Johnson, who as yet has not found his touch in first-class cricket this season, also came up with some deft late cuts and improvised glided shots to find the boundary. By the end of his innings, nobody quite knew where to bowl at him.

That there was any play at all reflected well on the groundstaff at this most hospitable of clubs. This is Peter Mandelson country, but sport has been the only obsession here for the past five chilly days. Three of Durham's new players made the bulk of their runs, but none of them dominated the bowling in the manner Johnson did later in the afternoon.

Speight opened, as he expects to do regularly this season, and struck 42 off 39 balls before reverse sweeping Bates to square leg.

Boon was starting to play with some freedom when he was run out by a direct throw from Bates, chancing the kind of single that even a man of his build has to take on Sundays. Speak contributed, too, but insufficient runs came at the end of the innings for Durham to give their bowlers much succour.



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CRICKET

Byas tilts match in Yorkshire's favour

By Michael Austin

HEADINGLEY (Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire (4pts) beat Glamorgan by seven wickets (D/L method)

THE white rose bloomed beneath unremitting grey skies yesterday as David Byas, the Yorkshire captain, cast aside his modest limited-overs form with a match-winning innings of 83 in the Axa Life League.

Byas, who hit nine fours and faced 78 balls, gave Yorkshire instant impetus when chasing 193. He dominated an opening partnership of 84 in 12 overs with Michael Vaughan as Waqar Younis, Glamorgan's fast-bowling import from Pakistan, struggled on his Sunday debut. Yorkshire won with 33 balls to spare.

After dispensing with their out-grounds, apart from Scarborough, more matches will be played at this old-established arena than in living memory, and the focus at Headingley is sharper than ever.

This pitch looked in far better shape than the dual purpose surface for the Benson and Hedges Cup game against Worcestershire and the drawn championship match against Glamorgan. It had some pace, which suited Tony Cottey, who hit six fours and two sixes from 31 balls, and offered equal encouragement for the bowlers. Except for pulling rabbits from a hat, Cottey did almost everything else.

Nimble-footed, he moved into position and gave himself room, ultimately perishing in the way he had flourished, moving across his stumps and being yorked by Gough. By then, Cottey had sustained his Sunday form, having made 61 in the defeat by Somerset last week. His fifth-wicket partnership of 83 in ten overs with Robert Croft made a brash statement after the match had been trimmed to 32 overs by a delayed start and a rain interruption.

Croft struck 29 from 27 balls, following the typically purposeful approach of Morris, with 32 from 34. Morris, James and Maynard all tumbled to Stemp, whose cumulative limited-overs return is 12 for 189 this season. Stemp's brief glimmer as an England prospect may have been extinguished, but his merits at county level remain undimmed. Now in his fifth summer with the county, he has emerged as Yorkshire's most consistent early-season bowler.

Gough also had his moments and fondly recalls these Sunday encounters with Glamorgan. Three years ago, he celebrated his selection for England's one-day squad by bowling Yorkshire to a nine-wicket win at Cardiff. The next summer, he yorked Dale with the final ball of the game at Headingley as Yorkshire triumphed by two runs.

At 37, Hartley had a considerable input in this latest win. With Gough a near-automatic choice for England against Australia this summer, Hartley is an especially precious county commodity. Though omitted from the championship match that ended in a rain-ruined draw on Saturday, Hartley continued his upper-order batting role, this time at No 3. Statistics testify to his unsung past. Needing 25 to complete the Sunday double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets, he was dismissed for 23 from 17 balls.

Hartley, with 164 wickets, still lurks on the brink of joining that Yorkshire elite of Chris Old, Phil Carrick and Graham Stevenson. Old remains, and will do so alone, on the pinnacle of 1,711 runs and 192 wickets.

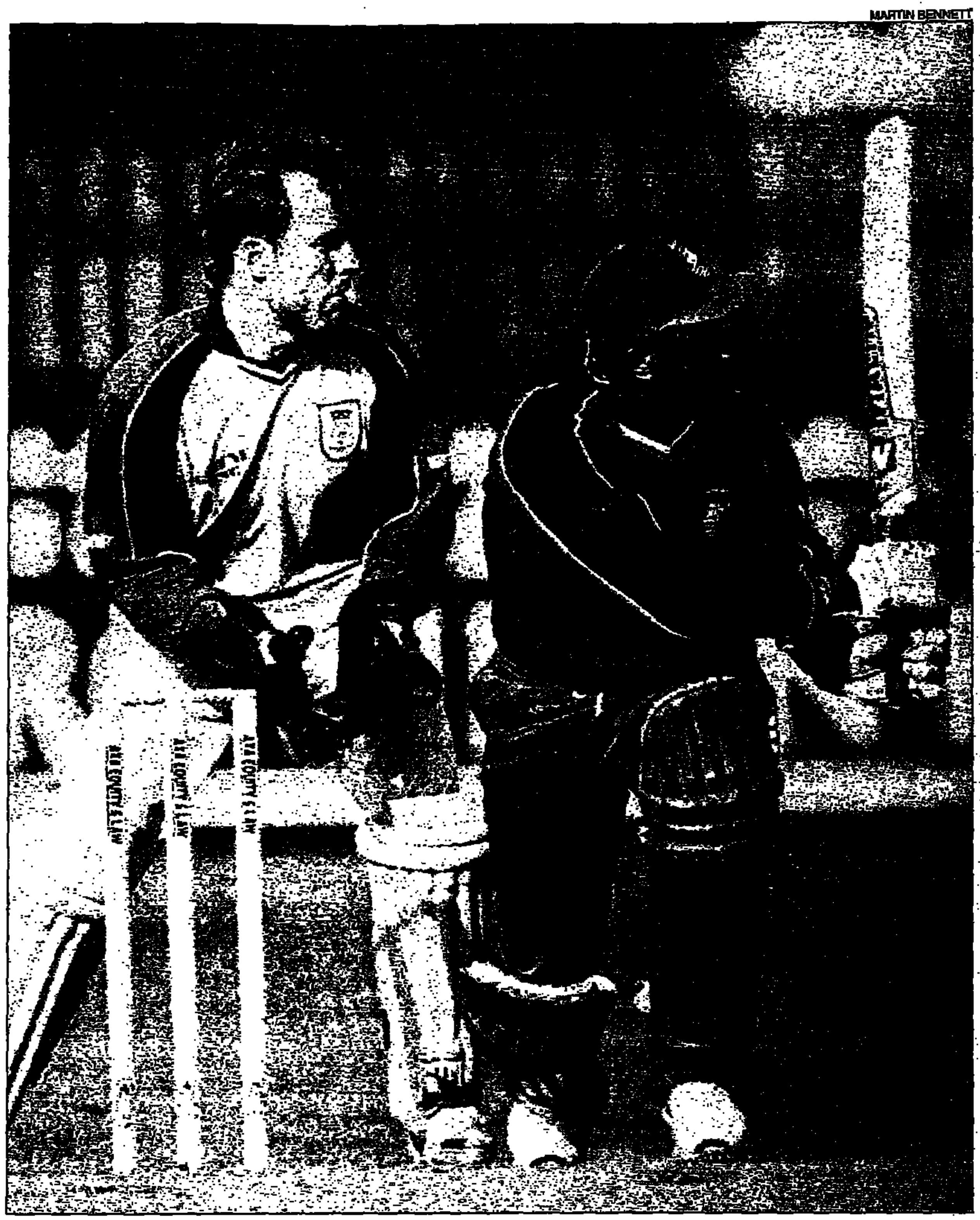
Even Hartley's departure did not detract from Yorkshire's advance. Vaughan, with 37 from 34 balls, had been already bowled by a ball from Parkin that kept low.

Yorkshire hurtled along at a carefree seven an over, Waqar conceding 29 from four overs while Byas thrashed six fours in a 47-ball half-century. This merry romp extended Yorkshire's limited-over success this season. With a place in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final draw beckoning, they have a first title in a decade on the horizon.

When Byas was caught at short extra cover, Yorkshire needed only 16 runs with eight overs remaining. Darren Lehmann, with three consecutive half-centuries in all competitions, completed the task with an unbeaten 33 from 21 balls.

The annual Costcutter Cup at Harrogate is also among Yorkshire's limited-overs programme. It was announced yesterday that Scotland will compete for the first time, meeting Durham on June 10, with Yorkshire playing Gloucestershire the previous day. The final will be played on June 11.

MARTIN BENNETT



Lynch flicks Udal for four during an explosive innings rendered meaningless by the return of heavy rain

Alleyne welcomes team input

By James Allen

BRISTOL (Gloucestershire won toss): No result. Gloucestershire (2pts) Hampshire (2)

FOR a man coming to terms with the cares of captaincy, Mark Alleyne cut a relaxed figure. It no doubt helps that the team he inherited on the eve of the season has taken an early lead in the county championship, but it is hard to imagine the giant smile that regularly breaks across his features being banished for long, even in adversity.

It would be wrong, however, to mistake such affability for a lack of determination to make the most of the opportunity that has suddenly come his way at the age of 28. He was as surprised as anyone when Jack Russell, who had been expected to stand in as captain in place of Courtney Walsh, failed to agree the terms under which he would take the job. "I attended the county captains' meeting in March, but I just went as a representative," Alleyne said. "Jack was meeting the club the next day and I thought it was a question of just sorting out a few details. They did not agree and I was more than happy to accept their offer. I might have seemed a third choice, but I really don't want to look at it that way. The club have been incredibly supportive."

As the rain toyed with the Axa Life League match against Hampshire at Bristol yesterday, which was eventually abandoned after Gloucestershire's truncated innings — of 139 for five off 16 overs — Alleyne outlined the way in which he aims to construct a team that is more than the sum of its parts.

"I'm not a dictator," he said. "I aim to listen and give everyone a chance to say what they want. It's important to have open discussion. I don't want anyone whingeing, because they will have had the chance to put across their point of view."

In Russell and Tony Wright, he has two experienced former captains on whom to rely for advice, but ultimately the decisions will be his alone. He greets enquiries about who picks the team with an emphatic "I do" and articulates his thoughts on how Gloucestershire can build upon their championship victory on Saturday with care.

"We are not the kind of team who can afford to be lazy, we must play to our full potential all the time. We are a side where nearly everybody does more than one thing, where everybody has to contribute. It's so easy on days like this," — he gestures towards the covers in the middle — "to let things drift, but we must retain our focus."

Judgments made at this time of year often need revising come September, but the signs are encouraging. Lawrence's return has given morale a huge boost, Lynch is scoring runs freely — his undefeated 88 yesterday, made off 51 balls, was another spectacular though ultimately meaningless innings — and Shaun Young may turn out to be an inspired choice as overseas player.

"We've started like this before and then fallen away," Alleyne said. "The real test is keeping it going."

☐ Lawrence, whose comeback was hampered by a sequence of muscle injuries, will not be considered for the final Benson and Hedges Cup group match against Kent today.

Gloucestershire are also without Jon Lewis, another seam bowler, who has an injury to his bowling hand.

Kamran Sheeraz, a seam bowler who did well against Somerset 2nd XI last week, has been brought in.

Drug cheats turn to insulin for improved results

John Goodbody warns of sinister use being made of treatment for diabetes

The scourge of drug-taking in British sport has returned, with fatal consequences in one instance.

A 21-year-old bodybuilder is being treated in a Hertfordshire hospital for severe brain damage after injecting himself with excessive amounts of insulin, the drug commonly used for the treatment of diabetes, but also described by one leading body-building magazine "as the most powerful anabolic hormone on the planet."

At an Essex inquest last Thursday, on a 36-year-old fitness trainer, Gary Kendall, Dr Malcolm Wier, the coroner, said Kendall's heart was a "time bomb" through anabolic steroid abuse. In February, he had collapsed at his home in Canvey Island, screaming abuse at paramedics and police after they had broken into his home to try to save him after a heart attack triggered by a dose of cocaine.

Dr Diana Cox, a pathologist, said that the use of anabolic steroids had made his heart grow in weight to 640 grammes, twice its normal size. Dr Cox said that the veins and the arteries carrying blood to the enlarged organ had remained normal in size but this also meant that the heart was seriously undernourished.

"An enlarged heart is a form of disease," she said. "It is progressive and there is no cure. The effect of the steroids built up over the months or years and he would have been at risk of a heart attack at any time."

Although anabolic steroids have been misused in sports such as athletics and American football, rugby union and cycling, for some time, insulin is a recent innovation.

Magazines and interweb net sites are promoting its use partly because insulin is not a prohibited substance and partly because there is no internationally-accepted test for its detection.

In a letter to the *British Medical Journal*, Drs Sarah Elkin, Sharron Brady and Isabel Williams, who have been treating the unnamed bodybuilder at Hemel Hempstead Hospital, said athletes "have been looking for alternative drugs to help them put on muscle mass and burn off fat."

The doctors pointed out that insulin is a "P" category drug, which means it can be obtained without a prescription. "We were able to buy soluble insulin over the counter without prescription or identification. We are not diabetic."

They have called on the Department of Health to review its policy on the sale of insulin. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society recently warned its members to ensure that sales are made only for the treatment of diabetes.

Dr Rob Dawson, a GP in Tyne and Wear, has also written to the Home Office urging a change in the law. Dr Dawson, who is the medical officer for DISCUS (Drugs in Sport Clinic and User Support), set up by the North Durham Health Authority, said yesterday that "it was a serious health matter. I am aware of one traffic accident already caused by the condition of hypoglycaemia."

This occurs when there is abnormally low blood sugar, either because the individual has taken too much insulin or because he has taken insufficient carbohydrate.

Michele Verroken, head of the UK Sports Council's drugs unit, said the organisation, which spends about £1 million of taxpayers' money a year on drug education and detection, "utterly deplored the misuse of a medicine in this way."

Those who misuse insulin believe it will help to drive the amino acids into the muscle cells, helping them recover more quickly from intensive exercise and allowing muscles to grow faster.

SPEEDWAY

Poole strike back to avenge home defeat

By Tony Hoare

THE Elite League shows no sign of settling down from a topsy-turvy start to the season, with a series of shock results unsettling the reputations of the favourites. For example, Bradford travelled to Poole on Wednesday and demolished the Dorset team, securing the match with four heats left.

The 53-37 defeat stunned a Poole side whose promoter had been making bold claims about winning the Elite League just a fortnight earlier.

Things did not improve for Poole at Belle Vue, who coasted to a 61-29 victory against the Pirates, who could offer no resistance to the Manchester club's powerful top quartet.

Then matters took another twist. Poole travelled across the Pennines on Saturday and struck back against the Bradford side that had embarrassed them three days earlier, snatching a 45-44 victory.

The Yorkshire club has, historically, been near invincible around the banked Odsal track but travelled poorly. This year they signed three small-track experts for away matches but the evidence so far suggests they should be worrying about their home displays for the defeat on Saturday was the second in three Elite League matches at Odsal.

Their victory at Poole was helped by some brilliant overtaking but at home they were second best to the Pirates at the starting gate.

"It was all about gating," the Bradford promoter, Allan Ham said. "It was a very disappointing night, nothing went right."

Coventry went down to their first home defeat of the season, against King's Lynn, whose guest rider, Carl Stonehewer, borrowed from Premier League Long Eaton for the night, made the difference, beating the home No 1, Greg Hancock, in the last heat.

☐ Newcastle have become the first club to be punished in the tyre-tampering row. The Speedway Control Board has docked them a point after it was revealed that Glyn Taylor had used an illegal tyre in the away draw at Edinburgh in the Premier League Cup.

POLO

Minotaurs destroy Bears' myth

By John Watson

THE Royal Windsor Horse Show Cup was contested by the Minotaurs, who are put together by the Swiss player, Adriano Agosti, and Andrew Hodgkinson's Polo Bears/UBS at Smith's Lawn, Windsor, at the weekend. The Minotaurs won 5-3½.

The Minotaurs' leading player, Cody Forsyth, of New Zealand, who plays off an eight handicap, took a while to settle into smooth partnership with his No 2, Anthony Fanshawe. Thus, during the first half of this rain-sodden match, the Polo Bears' Australian No 3, Glen Gilmore, well-supported by William Hine at back and Tim Stakemire at No 2, led most of the attacks.

And, with Gilmore converting a couple of well-lofted penalty shots during the second chukka, Polo Bears led 3½-2 at treading-in time (their half-goal advantage being attributed to their aggregating a team handicap of only 14 against the Minotaurs' 15).

Not only Forsyth and Fanshawe, but also their speedy No 1, Luke Tomlinson, who snapped in a couple of goals, played in harmony during the second half of an exciting encounter, all backing up and passing to one another in copybook style. Almost every time the Polo Bears attacked in this second phase of the tussle, Forsyth was there to return the ball to their half of the ground, thus frustrating their attempts to regain the lead.

The tournament for the medium-goal Royal Windsor Cup, which has attracted 17 entries and is the next item on the Guards Club's programme, is to be played in four leagues. That competition starts on May 17.

MINOTAURS: 1, L Tomlinson (3); 2, A Fanshawe (4); 3, C Forsyth (8); Back, A Agosti (0).

POLO BEARS/UBS: 1, A Hodgkinson [illegible]; 2, T Stakemire (4); 3, G Gilmore (6); Back, W Hine (4).

CYCLING

Feat of Clay enlivens two races

By Peter Bryan

JON CLAY proved a man for all seasons yesterday when he caused the time-trial upset of the year to win the British ten-mile championship near Barton-on-Humber in his first attemptfor a national title against the clock.

It was a championship he did not know he had won until several hours later, unable to stay to the finish to see how he had fared against most of the expected big-hitters who had started up to two hours after the 33-year-old Leeds man.

Clay, off fifteenth from a full field of 120 dispatched at one-minute intervals, was in a hurry to get to Lincoln for the start of the city's annual 102-mile grand prix road race.

When he left he knew that his time of 20min 42sec was fastest. But still to start were all the expected medal-winners, including Rob Hayles, the defending champion, and Sean Yates, a Tour de France time-trial winner in 1988 and now retired from international racing.

But neither Hayles nor Yates was fast enough, with the latter eventually finishing fourth in 21min 13sec; Hayles was two seconds slower.

The early starters had the better weather conditions; as the race progressed there were near-gale force winds and rain increased the danger of skidding.

The Walker brothers — Harry and Brian — enjoyed a family celebration, taking silver and bronze medals in close order with times of 20min 54sec and 20min 55sec. Both rode machines based on Graeme Obree's original and controversial design.

And Clay? Another fine performance a few hours later at Lincoln, where he finished fourth to the winner, John Tanner, who took over the lead from an absent Hayles in the season-long Premier Calendar competition.

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Golf is attracting the young, particularly since the rise of Tiger Woods. **Morag Preston** goes to golfing school

Lessons for those who aim to be the youngest swingers in town

PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER TREVNOR

How to hold the club: Stephen Mills of the 400-acre Foxhills in Surrey instructs George Matthews, one of the "Wee Wonders" who go to the course to learn the ancient game

Years before they have chaired a board meeting or tasted their first gin and tonic, *pint-sized youngsters* are being persuaded to take to the golf course.

Encouraged by ambitious *parents and guided by patient* pros, the baby-faced brigade *have abandoned their mud*-encrusted football boots in *favour of what is usually* regarded as a rather sophisticated sport.

A group of nervous juniors, aged between five and eight, arrived at Foxhills in Ottershaw in Surrey last Sunday afternoon for the first of their four weekly lessons at the country club, of which the football pundit Gary Lineker is a member.

Sore-eyed from swimming and sweaty from one of the many tennis courts, eight sunburnt youngsters — known as the "Wee Wonders" — gathered at the shop before making their way to the all-weather driving range.

According to Marc Hayton, the *marketing director*, it makes "commercial sense" to introduce juniors.

Charles Lobb — known to *his chums as* "Door Knob" — was the first to turn up at the *400-acre club, with his anxious-looking* father in tow. Aged eight, and a dead ringer for Macauley Culkin, Charles looked every bit the part, dressed in tartan trousers and a Foxhills sweatshirt.

His father, Ian, who is a club member and part-time player, bellowed: "Charles has not really taken an interest in many sports — particularly contact sports — but he loves his golf."

The boy now plays at least once a week.

Next to arrive was Alex Holland, Charles's school friend, who has taken lessons at Foxhills before. Attracting envious glances for his sweatshirt emblazoned with a tiger (they are all Tiger Woods wannabees), Alex announces *that he has been putting* in some practice in his front garden at home. It turns out that four of the children go to the same school (Hall Grove in Bagshot, where Nick Faldo's son is a pupil). The school has a five-hole golf course, but these boys are still too young to use it.

"The earlier they learn the better," says Richard Summerscales, 28, a professional at Foxhills for the past 11 years, who did not take up golf until he was 15. "Even if they can't get the correct grip, they can make a good swing. Kids are great *mimics*, and are less inhibited at an early age."

Allowing for their short attention span, he devises catchy *rhymes* to keep the game simple, and limits his lessons to 45 *minutes* maximum. Describing how to grip a club, he refers to his hand as five sausages, and the other as a greedy dog that gobbles them up.

Summerscales says: "We try not to encourage parents to watch, because we want the kids to concentrate on us. You can tell the ones who are pushed to come — they stubbornly refuse to listen."

He adds: "Children will learn quickly, but you have to keep it fun. They don't want to go to school at the weekend. Balance is the big thing — golf is *not down* to strength. If they are naturally talented, that will emerge almost immediately."

Club alignment, grip, ball position, stance and posture are as much as the juniors can hope to learn over the four-week course. They attack the swing in their first two lessons, play a short game in their third, and practise putting during their fourth.

At a cost of £25, the sessions — which continue throughout the year, bar a few months in the winter — are almost three times oversubscribed.

"It all evolves around Tiger Woods," Summerscales says. "The same thing happened when Jack Nicklaus burst on the scene — youngsters recognise characters in the game."

There is usually a 3:7 split between girls and boys, but on this occasion eight-year-old Hayley Matthews is the only female. Bobbing gently at the knees, with her blonde pony*tail in full swing, as she* prepares to strike the ball, the *promising left-hander has* been playing since she was two.

"I play a lot in the summer," she says, "because *it's nice* and sunny and my dad takes me to the driving range. But I'm not allowed to play in the garden, so at home I just practise my grip.

"My *mum* had lessons, but she doesn't really like it."

Jack Taylor, a seven-year-old prodigy who first picked up a club two years ago, prefers Foxhills to his back garden, because he keeps losing balls. None of his family plays golf, but one of his more recent Christmas presents was a *Lilliputian-sized* golf bag. His friend Alistair Freemantle, also seven, whose parents both play at the club, saved up his pocket money to buy a miniature wood.

"I think," says Jack, "that Alistair might be better than me. But if I try hard, I could beat Tiger Woods."

Charles Lobb, looking the part, is the first to arrive at the course as part of a youth movement that is taking a different sporting direction

HOW TO GET STARTED

Jack Taylor: child prodigy

A JUNIOR might be daunted by a traditional club that has been in existence for years, so the Golf Foundation (01920 484044), set up to promote golf among four to 18-year-olds, subsidises 50 per cent of the cost of group lessons in 1,500 schools and colleges across the country. In association with local authorities, it also runs courses during school holidays.

For the past eight years, Foxhills has hosted an open day to select four youngsters who would not otherwise be members, to be given four years' free membership, plus weekly tuition.

Morgan Palmer, 18, one of the top amateurs in the country, is a past scholarship winner. Now that an increasing number of girls is becoming involved in the game, Foxhills also runs female-only lessons taught by Diane Bernard, a tour professional.

WHAT TO WEAR

WHEN Sylvester Stallone first played at Foxhills, the *Hollywood actor-writer* played with a junior putter *and won his first game in a* long while. Manufacturers *such as Dunlop and Spal*ding are beginning to tap *into the junior market, but* still have some way to go.

Cutting down a full-sized club is an alternative, but it will affect the weight. Youngsters are advised to *master all the shots with one* club, before graduating to a *full set. A brand new putter* will cost about £12, shoes *£29, a bag £49, a trolley* £29.

A bag with five clubs will *cost about £89. To complete* the image, Pooh Bear and *Mini Mouse cover heads* cost £13.50 each.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The time to double a voluntarily bid contract is when the suits break *poorly for declarer. The danger is that it may give him* clues as to the lie of the cards and how the hand should be played. *Frequently, in match play, the results are Four Spades* doubled one off at one table and Four Spades two off undoubled at the other — flat board. It can be worse, *as this example shows*:

Dealer South	Game all	Match-pointed pairs
	♠Q J 10 2 ♥Q 7 4 2 ♦A 8 ♣A 8 7	
♠9 7 3 ♥3 ♦Q J 9 7 6 4 2 ♣5 2		♠A 8 6 4 ♥K 10 9 6 ♦10 ♣K 10 9 3
	♠K 5 ♥A J 8 5 ♦K 5 3 ♣Q J 5 4	

Contract: Four Hearts Doubled, by South. Lead: queen of diamonds

South opened One No-trump (12-14). North tried Two Clubs *asking for majors*, and raised South's Two Heart rebid to *Four* Hearts. East greedily doubled — dangerous when *North might* have had a hand just short of a slam try.

Declarer won dummy's ace of diamonds and led the queen *of hearts*. This was covered by East and won with the ace. *Declarer continued* with the king of spades, which held, and *another spade*. East won and returned a spade. In dummy, declarer led a heart and finessed the eight. He now cashed the ace *of hearts* and played the queen of clubs. This lost to *East but declarer made* three spades, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs *for* his contract.

The "safety play" of *the* eight of hearts would have been risky without the double because West might win and give East a diamond ruff. Then East would exit with his last spade and later win the king of clubs to defeat the contract. It would have done East no good to split his heart honours because South would continue to draw trumps, losing just one spade, one heart and one club.

Without the double it is likely that declarer would have played a low heart from dummy at trick two, hoping to find East with the king singleton or doubleton for a real bonus.

☐ Congratulations to my reader, Edwin Bigwood, who is 100 years old today.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on *bridge* Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on *Saturday*.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Brinkmanship

With one game to go in Garry Kasparov's clash against IBM's Deep Blue in New York, the score is still level. *Try as he might*, Kasparov could not force a victory in the *fifth game*.

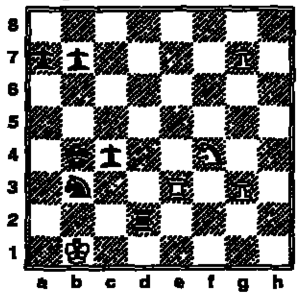
White: Garry Kasparov
Black: *Deep Blue*
New York, May 1997

King's Indian Attack

1	Nf3	d5
2	g3	Bg4
3	Bg2	Nd7
4	h3	Bxf3
5	Bxf3	c6
6	d3	e6
7	e4	Ne5
8	Bg2	dxe4
9	Bxe4	Nf6
10	Bg2	Bb4+
11	Nd2	h5
12	Qe2	Qc7
13	c3	Be7
14	d4	Ng6
15	h4	e5
16	Nf3	exd4
17	Nxd4	0-0-0
18	Bg5	Ng4
19	0-0-0	Rhe8
20	Qc2	Kb8
21	Kb1	Bxg5
22	hxg5	N6e5
23	Rhe1	c5
24	Nf3	Rxd1+
25	Rxd1	Nc4
26	Qa4	Rd8
27	Re1	Nb6
28	Qc2	Qd6
29	c4	Qg6
30	Qxg6	fxg6
31	b3	Nxd2
32	Re6	Kc7
33	Rxg6	Rd7
34	Nh4	Nc8
35	Bd5	Nd6
36	Re6	Nb5
37	cxb5	Rxd5
38	Rg6	Rd7
39	Nf5	Ne4
40	Nxg7	Rd1+
41	Kc2	Rd2+
42	Kc1	Rxa2
43	Nxh5	Nd2
44	Nf4	Nxb3+
45	Kb1	Rd2
46	Re6	c4
47	Re3	Kb6
48	g6	Kxb5
49	g7	Kb4

Draw agreed

Diagram of final position



In the final position Kasparov can make a new queen with 50 g8/Q, but then Black has a draw by perpetual check with 50 ... Rd1+ 51 Kc2 Rd2+ 52 Kb1 Rd1+ etc.

England leads

After five rounds of the European team championship at Pula, Croatia, England's men lead with 13½ points out of a possible 20, narrowly ahead of Croatia, Armenia, Russia and Hungary. In the women's event, England's 2-0 win against Hungary has pushed the team into second place behind Georgia but ahead of Greece, Hungary, Armenia, Russia and Germany.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TAPPEN
a. Norwegian gruel
b. A bear plug
c. A poltergeist

TREY
a. A brown-and-white pony
b. A three
c. To tremble

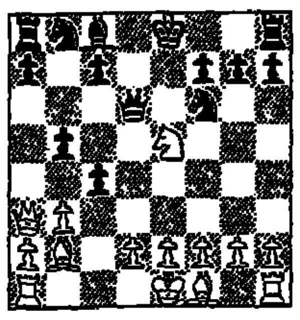
UTRUM
a. A writ
b. A *small cymbal*
c. Coarse dregs of rum

TINTO
a. A parrot
b. A half-caste
c. Red wine

Answers on page 43

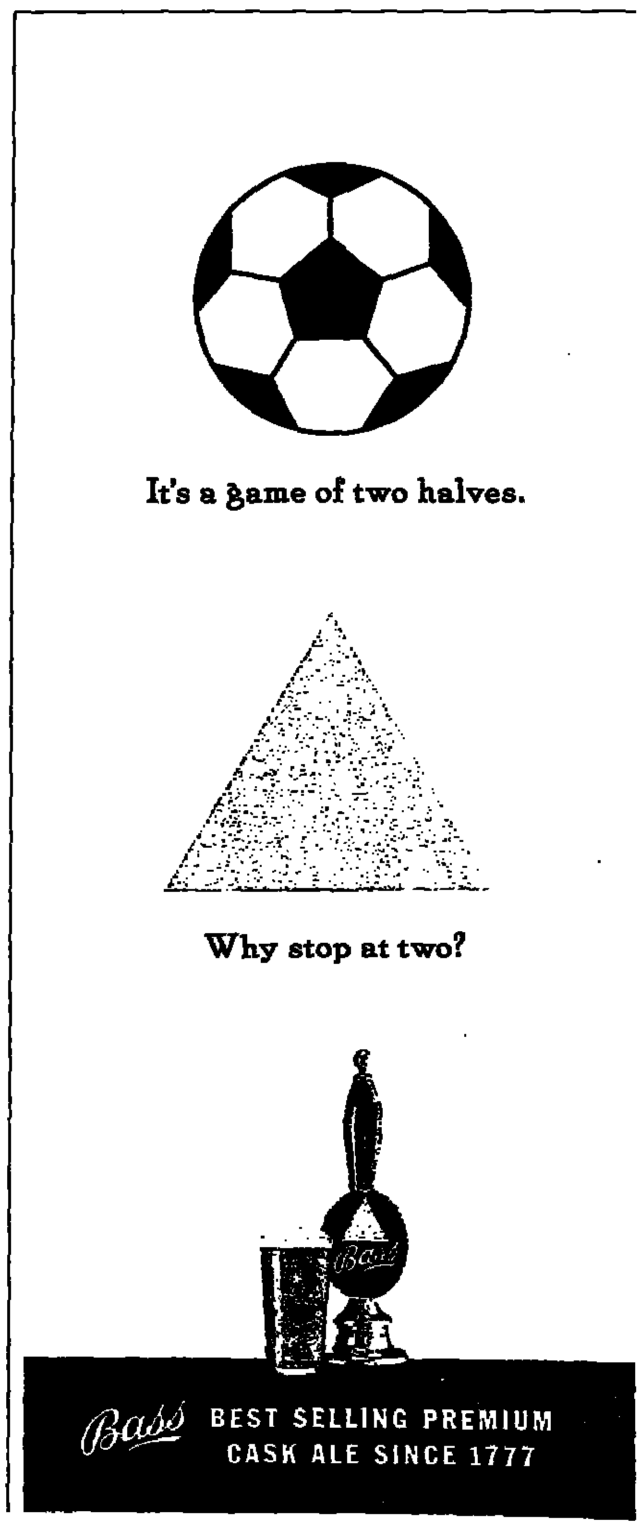
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



Black to play. This position is from the game Torre — Ed. Lasker, Chicago 1926. In this curious opening position the unusual juxtaposition of the queens gives Black the opportunity for a powerful tactic. Can you see it?

Solution on page 43


It's a game of two halves.

Why stop at two?

Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

Stransky's boot secures Pilkington Cup in scrappy final at Twickenham

Leicester defend the right to interrupt

Garforth, the Leicester tight-head prop, keeps his head in the pressure of the scrum during the Pilkington Cup final. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Leicester	9
Sale	3

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

VICTORY offers some justification in itself. That is the compensation that Leicester took away on Saturday, after the first try-less cup final since 1982 and only the second in the competition's history, and Sale, their players and vociferous supporters, would have settled for that in their first appearance in a Twickenham showpiece.

But the southern hemisphere players will not be quaking in their boots. They, and particularly the South Africans preparing a torrid welcome for the British Isles later this month, will hardly have recognised the stop-start game littered with pile-ups and so lacking in ambition that, at the close, even the loyal Leicester crowd failed to shake the rafters with applause as Dean Richards and John Wells, two of their most loyal clubmen, held the cup aloft.

Yet the Lions may draw some solace from the Pilkington Cup final: their six Leicester representatives survived in one piece and will tour the better for having succeeded. Not only that, the qualities that they displayed in abundance of tenacity in defence, of organisation in tight corners, will be required over and over again during their trek through South Africa.

Leicester won in the only way left to them, after their entire season threatened to come crashing about their ears during April. During that bitter month, their cohesion lapsed almost completely as their casualty list soared. The cracks remained evident when they played Sale in their final league game on May 3, so, though it may not have been entertaining for the 75,000 who withstood the strong, blustery wind and rain before the sun shone, they returned to basics.

Restarts are unromantic but Leicester were good there; the lineout was utterly dependable, never more than in the final, breathless minutes when Sale were two metres from their line and the understanding between Martin Johnson and Richard Cockerill had to be complete. The defence was top drawer. The return of Will Greenwood might have signalled a reversion to an offensive strategy but, instead, he and the outstanding Stuart Potter sealed up the middle of the field.

Where Jim Mallinder enjoyed the freedom of Heywood Road a week earlier, here he was laid low; Tom Beim and David Rees flickered like candles before being snuffed out. Dewi Morris never saw the slightest chink as he foraged for ball on which Leicester hands or bodies, frequently illegally, were laid. In so close an exchange the presence of Sale's two injured forwards, John Fowler and Charlie Vyvyan, might have made a difference, even though Dave Baldwin played unremittingly well at the lineout.

But this is not, now, what the uncommitted come to see. The corporate hospitality boxes do not buzz with debate at the subtleties of drift defence, but these elements make or break games. "New Zealand, one of the great exponents of the running game over the last three years, won three tests against South Africa without scoring a try last year," Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, said.

"If the opposition want to stop you in the efforts you make to score a try, you take your penalties." Even then Leicester faltered. Joel Stransky kicked only three from seven attempts, Simon Mannix one from four for Sale, which is indicative of the part played by the elements.

Had Stransky opened a nine-point gap with 20 minutes remaining, would Leicester's ambition have expanded? The South African was responsible for their best opportunity, an exquisite show of the ball leading to a clean break from his own 22, support from Healey, Greenwood and Lloyd before Poole, who played the bravest of games, appeared on the Sale 22 only to be scythed down by Hadley some 12 metres short of a wonderful score.

But control of a slippery ball, in a strong wind, was never easy. Sale would have played the risk game more if they had won quicker second-phase possession, but a turnover count of 13-6 against them illustrated their difficulties and the voracious nature of the Leicester tackling. All season Sale have thrived on a game of continuity and John Mitchell, their player-coach, fumed at the refereeing interpretations in England that prevent it.

In that, he and Dwyer concurred. "Unless you are allowed to do something at the breakdown, it's very hard to have a spectacle," the Australian said. "You can't have an open game if people park where they like." Both coaches groaned at the detritus of collapsed mauls, of the constant offside at ruck and maul.

Yet Dwyer could not find it in his heart to be critical of his weary players. "At the start of the year we would not have said that, realistically, we could expect to be the second team in Europe or the most successful team in England, which we are by a long shot," he said. "The most important thing for us now is that, with this title, we are in a position to attract money to the club."

Leicester might have scored a try in the opening minutes as they settled into an early stride but their timing of the pass was nowhere good enough to beat the Sale defence. Stransky's first penalty hit a post before his third, with the wind behind him, gave Leicester the lead. When Mannix hit the crossbar with his second penalty attempt and then an upright with a dropped goal from the rebound, Sale may have had an inkling it was not to be their day, but the two stand-off halves exchanged penalties immediately before the interval, leaving the game open.

A high tackle by Morris on Potter gave Stransky his third successful kick, but few would have predicted such a tense, scoreless final half-hour. No single individual could leave an imprint on the occasion. Instead, the strongest image came in the dying seconds, Johnson dominating the lineout and the Leicester pack marching its way upfield in close order, recalling those earlier days of the 1990s before Dwyer came among them. It was efficient, but it was not much fun.

SCORERS: Leicester: Penalty goals: Stransky (3). Sale: Penalty goal: Mannix.

LEICESTER: N Malone; C Joiner, W Greenwood, S Potter, L Lloyd; J Stransky, A Healey; G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Back, E Miller. Wells replaced by D Richards (68min); Healey temporarily replaced by A Kardooni (72-76).

SALE: J Mallinder; D Rees, J Baxendell, A Hadley, T Beim; S Mannix, D Morris; P Winstanley, S Diamond, A Smith, N Ashurst, D Erskine, D Baldwin, D O'Grady, J Mitchell.

Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire)

Need for reform demonstrated by game too far

JOHN HOPKINS

At Twickenham

When the final whistle brought this farrago to a conclusion, a shaft of sunlight caught six Sale players in its full glare. For several seconds they remained motionless, as if, like Medusa's victims, they had been turned to stone. Their heads were down, their bodies still.

The desperation that they felt was matched only by those spectators who had gone to Twickenham in the hope of seeing a cup final of uplifting quality, to bring a rousing end to rugby's first professional season. Was it the anticipation of a good game that created such disappointment? It was awful, quite awful.

John Mitchell, the Sale player-coach, and Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, were united in their criticism of the interpretation of laws to do with rucking. Both said that it was taking too long for the ball to be released, that too often players were being allowed to lie on the ball, and that the game was suffering as a spectacle.

"The dilemma of English rugby is that ruck ball is not quick enough," Mitchell, a former New Zealand player, said. "It is terrible that a game of such importance and commercial entertainment reaches a score of 9-3. It is hindering British rugby. I believe we have a side capable of playing entertaining rugby that is attractive to the commercial pound and inviting hospitality, and unfortunately we did not do it today."

Mitchell won some more friends for his honesty; Dwyer, for his part, prevaricated. He admitted being puzzled at the British interpretation of the rucking laws, but then tried to emphasise the virtues of solid defence. "If the other team have the ball it is very difficult for us to attack," he said. This was a bit rich coming from a man who, when coach of Australia, spent some time criticising British teams for their reluctance to play attacking rugby.

This is not only the era of new Labour. The first season of new rugby has just ended. New rugby is not like old rugby any more than new Labour is like old Labour. Rugby today, at the highest level, is striving to present itself as a spectacle, worthy of investment, capable of attracting large and committed support. This much is clear: spectators will not continue to come if there are many more games like this.

Altering the rucking laws and persuading referees to administer them differently is only half of the problem. The fixture list desperately needs to be curtailed. This was Martin Johnson's 43rd game of the season, which is ten or 15 games too many. Afterwards, he looked exhausted. His eyes were sunken. Is this any state for a man to depart for a demanding tour of South Africa? The same applies to half the members of the British Isles party.

There are several battles going on in English rugby at present. The heavyweight contest is between Cliff Brittle and Tony Hallett within the Rugby Football Union, and Dick Best is at odds with some of his Harlequins players. It is to be hoped that these disputes will not distract administrators of new rugby from addressing the issue of the crowded fixture list. This is their chance to demonstrate that they can bring their undoubted business acumen to bear.

In golf there is a polite custom for the starter to send players from the 1st tee with the words: "Gentlemen, play away please." At the end of rugby's first professional season, after a desperate cup final, this exhortation could be adapted for rugby's administrators: "Gentlemen, the problem is yours. Please sort it out."

Battling Bedford expose limitations

Bristol	19
Bedford	12

(Bristol win 39-23 on agg)

By Peter Bills

THE winners leapt in triumph and greeted their adoring supporters with warm handshakes, celebratory punches in the air and slaps on the back. Klaxons sounded raucously, children ran around the pitch in the wake of the conquerors.

Yet Bedford did enough in this return leg of the Courage Clubs Championship play-off at the Recreation ground to suggest that Bristol will need considerable strengthening if they are not to lose their cherished place in the top flight, 12 months hence. Certainly, the England internationals, Simon Shaw and Mark Regan, are critical to their future. If both depart this summer, Bristol will struggle.

The dividing line between success and failure was again a desperately thin one in this lively encounter. As thin, in fact, as the width of a post — or a knock-on with the line open.

Bedford, inspired by the 38-year-old Turner, not only withstood Bristol's furious opening but responded to Burke's early penalty with an outstanding try. Hewitt was worked free down the right from a tap penalty and Matchett, up in support, ran through two tackles to score.

A decisive moment in the heavy conditions came after 28 minutes, with Bedford still holding their 5-3 lead. Rayer's 45-metre penalty attempt hit a post and bounced on to the bar. Hewitt caught it and was held up on the line. From the scrum five, Winter knocked-on with Bedford looking set to add a second try, which, if converted, would have levelled the aggregate scores.

As it was, Bristol won through because of their stronger pack and Jones's shrewdness. Rollitt picked up from a scrum nine minutes after half-time and sent Corry over and Burke, although erratic with his kicking, soon added a penalty for an 11-5 lead.

Bedford responded by pounding the Bristol line, a sustained spell of pressure which ended with the veteran Probyn driving over. Rayer's conversion edged the Midland club ahead at 12-11. Suddenly, the £50,000 bet of their chairman, Frank Warren, that they would clinch promotion was alive once more.

But Bedford, always under pressure in the front five, began to make errors. Paramore was isolated and penalised for not releasing, giving Burke a 68th-minute penalty which he landed for a 14-12 advantage. Another mistake, a poor pass by Whetstone, gave Maggs a simple try just before the end.

SCORERS: Bristol: Tries: Corry, Maggs. Penalty goals: Burke (3). Bedford: Tries: Matchett, Probyn. Conversion: Rayer.

BRISTOL: J Lewsey, P Hull, F Waters, K Maggs, S Breeze; P Burke, R Jones; C Hinkins, M Regan, K Fullman, M Corry, S Shaw, C Eagle, R [illegible], E Rollitt. Rollitt replaced by D Corkery (68min); Eagle replaced by P Adams ([illegible]).

BEDFORD: M Rayer; P Hewitt, B Whetstone, M Oliver, R O'Neil; P Turner, A Matchett; C Boyd, P Simmonds, J Probyn, S Murray, S Platford, N Harvey, R Winters, J Paramore. Matchett replaced by D Edwards (40min); Hewitt replaced by P Allan (57); Oliver replaced by S McCurrie (70).

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

Spirit of the Irish ensures survival

London Irish	28
Coventry	7

(London Irish win 42-23 on agg)

By David Hands

COVENTRY'S dream of joining English rugby's elite for the first time since 1988 was blown to the four winds at Sunbury yesterday. A London Irish display in the second leg of the promotion play-offs full of passion and no little skill ensured their survival in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship, with an aggregate score of 42-23, though they will surely need to recruit to remain there.

The Midland club, relegated after the inaugural season of league rugby, gave themselves hope of promotion by winning the first leg by two points at Coundon Road on Wednesday. But the Irish won the toss, took the strong wind and within seven minutes that slight advantage had been wiped out. By half-time Coventry trailed 23-0 and showed little sign of the recovery they required in the final 40 minutes of the season.

The blustery wind was the vital ingredient of this match and the Irish harnessed it superbly, no one better than David Humphreys, their international stand-off half. Not only did he orchestrate a sustained offensive which flagged only when Halpin, their captain, left the field in the closing stages, but he kicked his goals on a day when fine judgment was required to find the posts.

He also snatched a vital try at the start of the second half to ensure any revival was stillborn. He was helped by a commanding display from the two international locks, Fulcher and Davidson, that left Coventry scrambling for possession and struggling for control of whatever ball they did win.

Only a couple of times in the first half, mainly through Horrobin, did Coventry win their way to the Irish 22; for the rest it was grim defence which still failed to contain the powerful runs of Burns and O'Shea. Humphreys opened with two penalties and the conversion of Halpin's try; Harris, in stark contrast, missed his only penalty opportunity.

When O'Shea, who paved the way for Halpin's try, performed the same service for Woods. Humphreys embellished the lead and Coventry's frustration became all too apparent.

Only in the final minutes did Coventry find space for their backs and Robinson cut back against the defence for a try that scarcely even ranked as consolation.

SCORERS: London Irish: Tries: Halpin, Woods, Humphreys. Conversions: Humphreys (2). Penalty goals: Humphreys (3). Coventry: Try: Robinson. Conversion: Harris.

LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea; J Bishop, N Burrows, S Burns, N Woods; D Humphreys, N Hogan; J Fitzpatrick, A Redmond, G Halpin, P O'Connell, G Fulcher, J Davidson, B Bird, J Shore. Halpin replaced by I McLaughlin (72min); Bishop temporarily replaced by R Hennessy (57-64).

COVENTRY: M Gallagher; A McAdam, J [illegible], R Robinson, A Smallwood; J Harris, A Dawson; A Sharp, D Addleton, R [illegible], J Horrobin, D Grewcock, A Blackmore, D Eves, I Patten. Sharp replaced by M Crane (31).

Referee: E Morrison (Bristol)

Melrose complete grand slam

Melrose	31
Boroughmuir	23

By Mark Souster

IT IS a moot point how one judges perfection but, by any interpretation, Melrose must have come close to it this season. Not always in the manner of their performance — the defeat of Boroughmuir at Murrayfield on Saturday was a case in point — but more in what they have achieved.

Four competitions, four triumphs, an unprecedented domestic grand slam which includes an unblemished record in the Tennents Premiership, and now success in the SRU Tennents Cup, to cap it all. Whatever their fate because of circumstances beyond their control — the switch in emphasis from club to district rugby in Scotland — Melrose's place in the record books is assured for posterity. If, as seems likely, this is the end of an era, it is a fitting way to be remembered.

That Melrose won the cup with a less than consummate performance was the result of Boroughmuir's resilience, their own lack of intense rugby in recent weeks and an eddying wind, but when it mattered in the second half, as Rob Moffat, the coach, said, the character of the side, which has sustained them in times of difficulty, shone through.

The first half was a staccato affair as Boroughmuir lived offside while Melrose continually killed the ball, spoiling tactics upon which Eddie Murray, the referee, rightly clamped down. The Melrose forwards finally gained the upper hand and, aided and abetted by a masterly kicking performance from Craig Chalmers at stand-off half, Boroughmuir, who felt keenly the loss of the influential Ronnie Kirkpatrick, the open-side flanker, on the hour, were pinned deep inside their own territory for much of the second half.

Redpath, the Melrose captain, lifts the Tennents Cup

The siege could not be raised, the pressure was relentless and there was an inevitability about the outcome which denied Sean Lineen, at 35, a fairy-tale ending to his career. Three of their four tries were scored after half-time, two by Rowen Shepherd, whose place-kicking was poor, to complete his hat-trick, and one from Mark Moncrieff in the 41st minute.

Moffat, who is leaving to become coach to the Scottish Borders district, does not believe that Melrose will wither and die, even though large chunks of the side are following him. "In a way it is good for the club that things move on. It is healthy. I wish the club all the best. I am sure it will go from strength to strength. Today we played fairly well in the second half. We dug in and got a lot better. The club can take a lot of satisfaction from this season. The quality of our rugby has moved on, at times this year we have played some cracking rugby."

For their part, Boroughmuir can take credit from a season which began fitfully, as eight new players took time to integrate into the team, but ended on a relative high, although the ultimate prize eluded them. Henry Edwards, the club coach who is also departing to become the assistant to the Edinburgh district, said: "We are a young team, but if we can learn from today then it has been worthwhile."

SCORERS: Melrose: Tries: Shepherd (3), Moncrieff. Conversion: Shepherd. Penalty goals: Shepherd (3). Boroughmuir: Tries: McLean (2), Wylie. Conversion: Aitken. Penalty goals: Aitken (2).

BOROUGHMUIR: C Aitken; N Renton, D Laird, S Lineen, A McLean; D Wyllie, G Beveridge; S Paris, K Allan, A Cadzow, S Penman, D Burns, G MacCallum, R Kirkpatrick, S Reid. Kirkpatrick replaced by S Wanda (60min); Allan replaced by D Cunningham (64).

MELROSE: R Shepherd; D Stark, S Nicol, Ross Brown, M Moncrieff; C Chalmers, B Redpath; M Browne, S Brotherstone, P Wright, M Donnan, Robbie Brown, S Aitken, N Broughton, C Hogg.

Referee: E Murray (Greenock Wanderers).

Newport earn salvation

Newport	23
Cardiff	11

By Gerald Davies

THE constitution of the Welsh League first division next season was finally determined on Saturday. Ebbw Vale had confirmed their inclusion earlier in the week, but the fate of both Newport and Neath still hung in the balance and, indeed, was not entirely left in their hands, as Dunvant had a say in matters, too.

In the event, even though Dunvant did win, so did Neath and Newport, ensuring therefore that, after many a nerve-racking moment, it would be the two of them who remained in the first division. So, with a first division reduced to eight clubs next year, there is an even distribution along the M4 corridor of clubs in the higher echelon of the Welsh game.

There was a tense atmosphere at Rodney Parade but, once the home team had shown their hunger for victory, and began driving forward with urgency and purpose against their great rivals, the spectators soon forgot their anxieties and roared their approval. The threat of relegation clearly brought out the best in them.

The cold wind and heavy showers, which left a lot of surface water, ruled out any clever attempts at sleight of hand. However, it was a tough and absorbing match nonetheless. The fact that the man-of-the-match award was given to the entire Newport pack perhaps best sums up the match as a whole.

Newport, having earned their survival, can look forward to making a greater impression on the playing field from now on. Although Jarvis was off target with his penalty attempts on Saturday, he still managed to succeed with a couple before the interval. But it was tries that the home team craved.

They scored two in the first half. Twice the scrum was swivelled near Cardiff's line and this led to Newport being awarded a penalty. Lloyd tapped it himself and ran in for the score.

The second touchdown owed everything to powerful drives from Taylor, Goodey and Ian Jones which paved the way for Machacek's first try. He scored his second three minutes after the interval.

Not only did Newport control the scrums, but they also gave their opponents an awkward time in all aspects of the game. It was, therefore, a surprise when Cardiff managed to turn the tables to win a pushover try, awarded to Owain Williams.

But in the last quarter, Lloyd and Colderley marshalled the elements to their advantage. Time and again they ensured that the visitors were pinned back, as their kicks put the ball skidding into the corners. Cardiff could not loosen this grip and, inevitably, more points came Newport's way. Simon Davies kicked a penalty and Burn ran in his team's fourth try.

SCORERS: Newport: Tries: Machacek (2), Lloyd, Burn. Penalty goal: S Davies. Cardiff: Try: Williams. Penalty goals: Jarvis (3).

NEWPORT: S Davies, D Smith, A Palfrey, L Jones, D Burn; J Colderley, N Lloyd; S Duggan, I Jones, S Cronk, V Davies, R Goodey, I Gough, G Taylor, J Machacek. Cronk replaced by C Johnson (40min); Taylor replaced by M Workman (62); I Jones replaced by G Hicks (77); V Davies replaced by R Parks (80).

CARDIFF: I Jones; J Folana, L Davies, G Jones, S Hill; L Jarvis, J Hewlett; A Lewis, J Humphreys, L Mustoe, J Ringer, K Stewart, J Wakeford, L Jones, O Williams. Wakeford replaced by S Roy (55min); Lewis replaced by P Booth (66).

Referee: H F Lewis (Pontypridd).

Fijians add welcome colour to Caldy

By Michael Aylwin

THE Caldy Sevens is one of those events whose prestige and significance transcend its relatively humble origins. Caldy rugby club ply their trade in the lower reaches of the Northern leagues, yet in recent years their annual sevens festival has attracted some of the best players in the world, and the 1997 event on Saturday was no exception.

The festival is made up of two tournaments: the 54-year-old Merseyside Sevens, played between local junior clubs, and the Invitation Sevens, which is now in its eighth year and features senior clubs from throughout the country together with select international teams.

In truth, the invitation event this year was severely compromised by the exacting demands of the first season of professional rugby. Nevertheless, those most Corinthian of amateurs, the Fijians, were there in all their pomp, and it is hoped that next year, when things have settled down a little, a full complement of top teams will return to contest the tournament.

As it was, only Orrell, the winners last year, were able to provide opposition for the world sevens champions, playing them over two legs for the Invitation Trophy, believed to be the tallest trophy in English rugby. The Fijian team, however, had too much class and won the event for the fourth time.

RESULTS: Invitation tournament: First leg: Orrell 7 Fiji Spartans [illegible]. Second leg: Orrell 10 Fiji Spartans 45. **Merseyside Sevens:** Quarter-finals: Birkenhead Park 14 Wirral 48; [illegible] 26 Caldy 19; Chester College OB 7 [illegible] 17; New Brighton 50 Chester College 12. **Semi-finals:** Wirral 15 [illegible] 7; [illegible] New Brighton 57. **Final:** Wirral 5 New Brighton 57.

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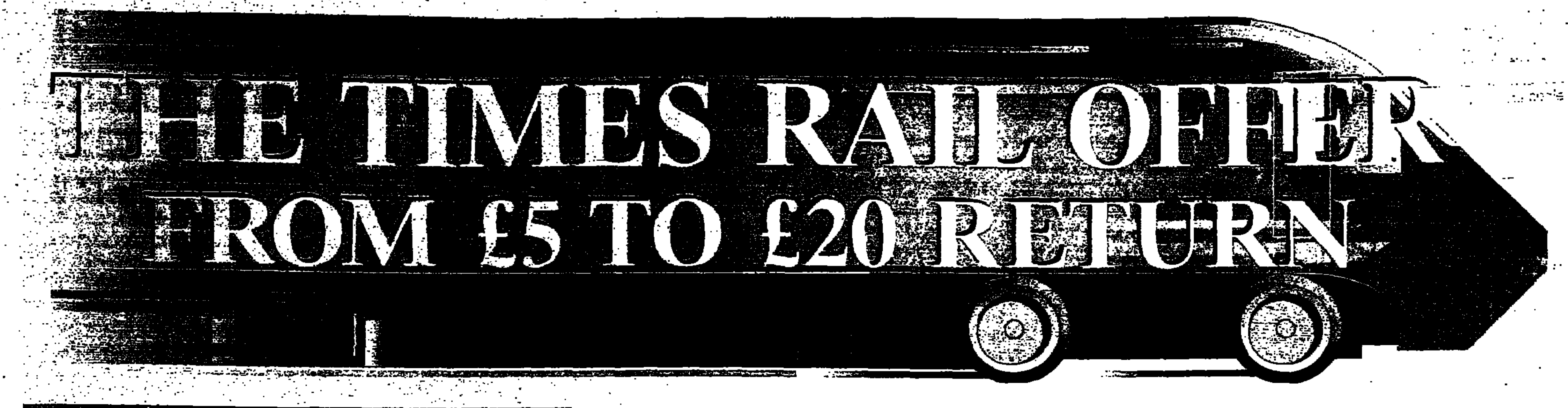

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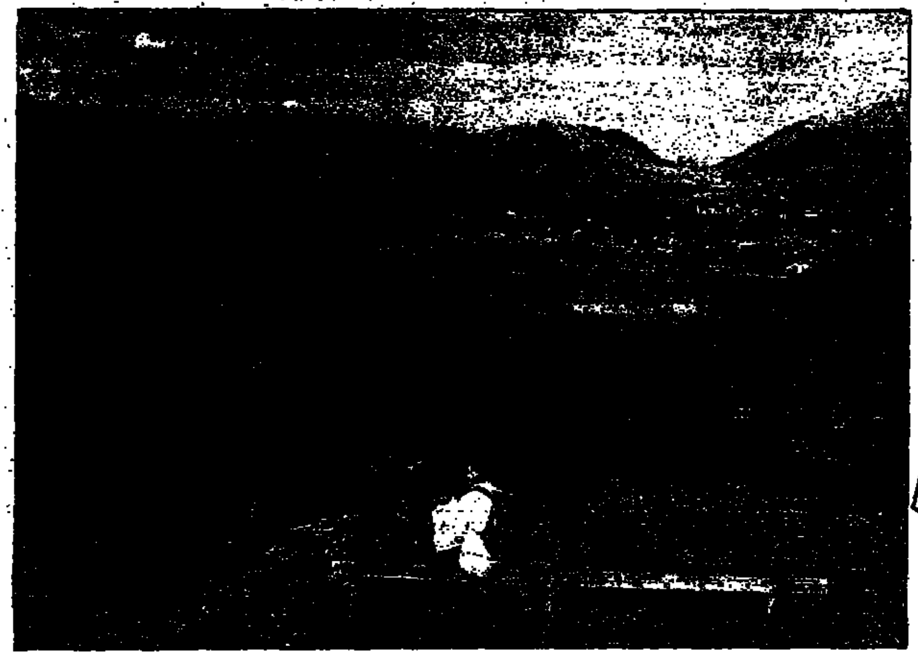

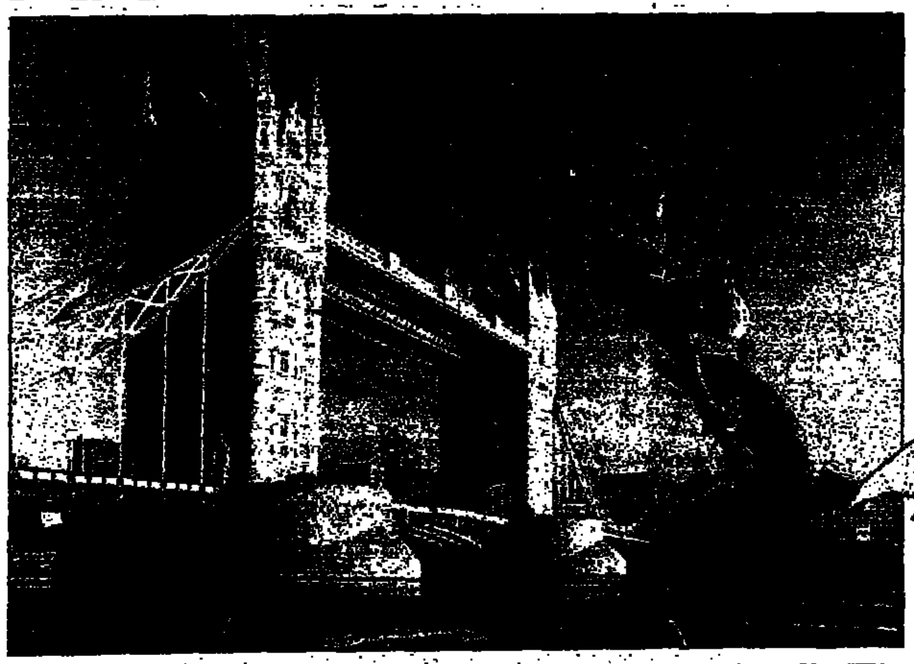

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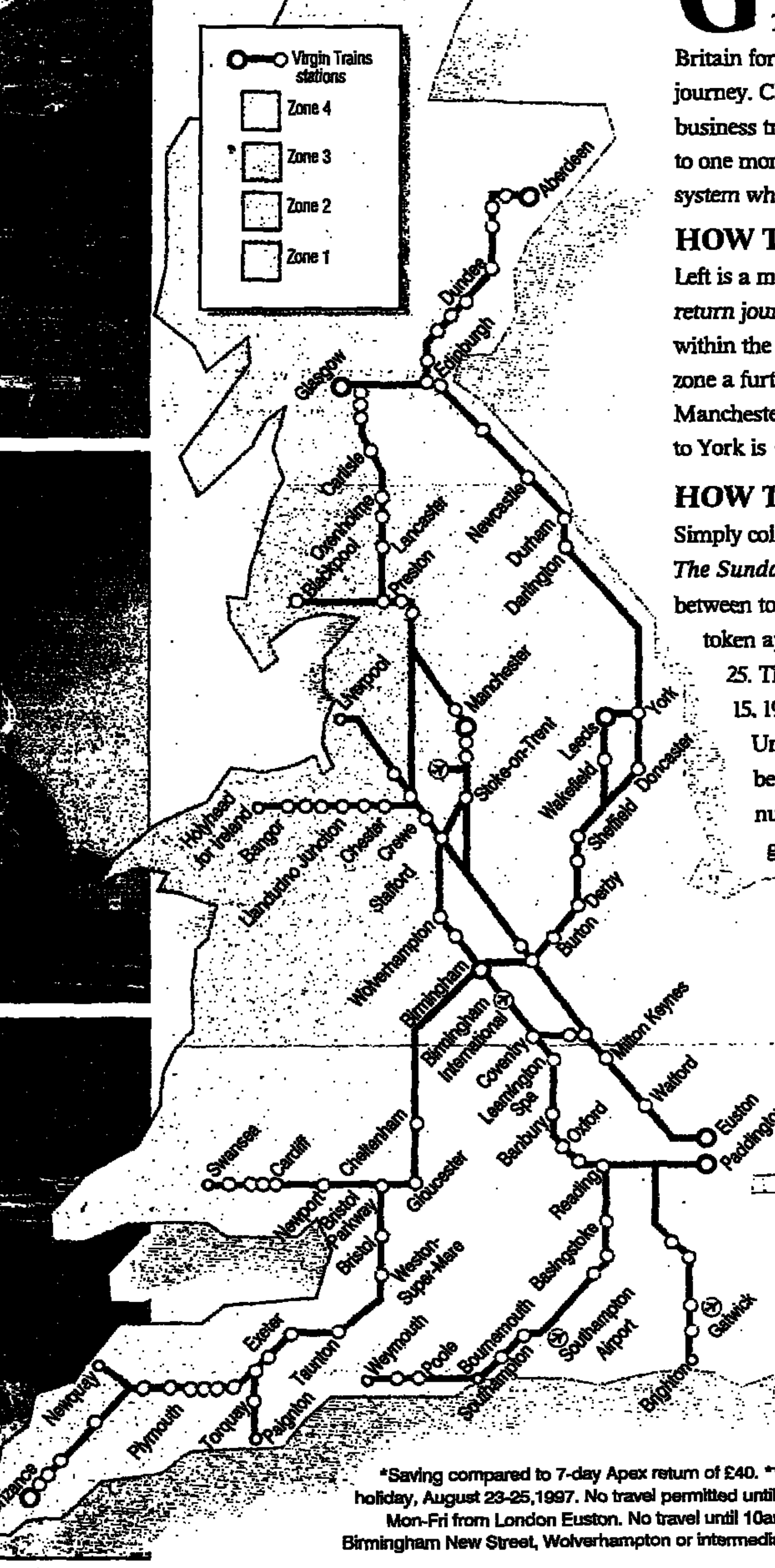

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CHANGING TIMES

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

WORLD LEAGUE (WLAF). Rhein Fire 10 Frankfurt Galaxy 7; London Monarchs 16 Scottish Claymores 8

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Carlton 14 14 (98) bt Richmond 10.16 (76): Western Bulldogs 19 19 (133) bt Hawthorn 13 10 (88): Geelong 11 10 (76) bt Sydney 6.8 (44). St Kilda 20 6 (126) bt Port Adelaide 8 13 (61). West Coast Eagles 21.13 (139) bt Brisbane Lions 8 12 (60); Adelaide Crows 18.18 (126) bt Essendon 11 7 (73).

BADMINTON

INTER-COUNTY CUP: Final: Derbyshire (256 5pts) bt Nottinghamshire (233pts) Third-place play-off: Hertfordshire (233pts) bt Avon (192 5pts)

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Play-offs: Semi-finals: Eastern Conference: Chicago 100 Atlanta 8 (Chicago lead best-of-seven series 2-1) Western Conference: Utah 110 LA Lakers 95 (Utah lead best-of-seven series 3-1)

BOWLS

SCOTTISH COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North section: Aberdeen and Kincardine 104 Highland 141, Bon Accord 124 Angus 109. Buchan 127 Northern Counties 98: Perthshire 113 Dundee 108 East section: East Lothian 133 Edinburgh and Leith 120; Mid Lothian 90 Linlithgowshire 136. West Fife 119 Fife 136 Borders 151 Stirlingshire East 78. West section: Glasgow North 103 Dumbartonshire West 130. Lanarkshire West 120 Clackmannan and Kinross 119. Stirlingshire West 125 Argyll and Bute 113 South section: Renfrewshire South 109 Ayrshire 109: Dumbartonshire East 98 Lanarkshire South 124, Stewartry 115 Glasgow South 123, Wigtownshire 88 Dumfriesshire 142

WALKER CUP: Preliminary round: Warwickshire bt Norfolk 35-34. Cornwall bt Devon 46-35. Dorset bt Somerset 45-22

ROEBUCK: Eastern Counties League. Hertfordshire bt Cambridgeshire 127-101

INTER-COUNTY MATCHES: Surrey bt Warwickshire 105-102 (at Sutton). Surrey bt Cambridgeshire 147-88 (at St Neots)

BOXING

MIAMI: World Boxing Association middleweight championship: William Joppy (US holder) bt Peter Venancio (Br) pts World Boxing Association lightweight championship: Orzubek Nazarov (Russ, holder) bt Leavander Johnson (US) ko 7th World Boxing Association junior-featherweight championship: Antonio Cermeno (Ven holder) bt Angel Chacon (P Rico) pts. Heavyweight: Francois Botha (SA) bt James Stanton (US) ko 10th

BANGKOK: World Boxing Council flyweight championship (vacant) Chatchai Sasakul (Thai) bt Isaias Zamudio (US) pts

LOS ANGELES: Professional bout: Welterweight (10rnds) Carlos Palomino (Mex) bt Wilbert Garst (Mex) ko 2nd. Junior-welterweight (10rnds): Hector Lopez (Mex) bt Omar Flores (Mex) rsc 4th.

CRICKET

INDEPENDENCE CUP: Mohali, India (one day) New Zealand 285-7 (N J Astle 117. B A Young 59) Pakistan 263-9 (Shahid Afridi 59. Ijaz Ahmed 52. Astle 4-44) New Zealand win by 22 runs

SUPER CHALLENGE CUP: Hong Kong (one day): Rest of World XI 245-8 (S V Manjrekar 80 R Gavaskar 51). Australia XI *248-6 (M E Waugh 116) Australia XI* win by four wickets

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of three). Eastbourne: Northamptonshire 377-7 dec and 180-3 dec (T C Walton 100 not out): Sussex 250 (J D P Bowden 60) and 308-6 (T A Radford 80, M Newell 68 not out, J P Pyemont 50) Sussex win by four wickets *Pontypridd: Glamorgan 310-5 dec* (M J Powell 102 not out, W L Law 76) and 83-4 dec: Yorkshire 81-2 dec and 201 (N G Russell 54. D A Cosker 5-59) Glamorgan win by 111 runs. Leicester: Leicestershire 83-1 v Kent Match abandoned as a draw

CYCLING

Road races

DUNKIRK: Four-day race: Fifth stage (Amiens to Gravelines, 175 5km) 1, J Bijlevens (Holl) 4hr 15min 10sec, 2. D Abdujaparov (Uzb) 3. F Moncassin (Fr) same time. Sixth stage (Loon-Plage to *Monts de Flandre, 180 8km): 1. D Conti* (It) 4hr 25min 27sec, 2. F Vandenbroucke (Bel). 3, A Tchmil (Russ) both same time Seventh stage (Grande-Scythe to Dunkirk, 177 4km) 1. Abdujaparov 4hr 00min 16sec 2. J Kirsipuu (Est): 3. J Koerts (Holl) both same time Final overall positions: 1. J Museeuw (Bel) 23hr 24min 25sec, 2 Vandenbroucke at 11sec 3 D Conti (It) at 21

TOUR OF ROMANDY: Fourth stage (Monthey to Veysonnaz, 149 4km) 1 P Tonkov (Russ) 4hr 23min 2sec. 2 D Rebellin (It) at 34sec 3. G Guerini (It) same time 4 G Simoni (It) at 48 5. B Zberg (Switz) same time Fifth stage: First leg (Montreux to Nyon, 69 3km): 1. M Cipollini (It) 1hr 31min 47sec 2, A Baffi (It) 3. M Manzoni (It), 4. F Baldato (It). 5. G Missaglia (It) Second leg (21 7km time-trial) 1. C Boardman (GB) 24min 10sec. 2. V Ekimov (Russ) at 16sec 3 E Breukink (Holl) 36 4 J Bruyneel (Bel) 38. 5. E Dekker (Holl) 50 Final overall positions: 1. Tonkov 20hr 22min 46sec; 2. Boardman at 45sec. 3 Zberg at 1min 04sec. 4. A Teteriuk (Kaz) 1 27. 5. Guerini 1 42

OSAKA: Tour of Japan: First stage (around Osaka 140km) 1 J Sweet (Aus) 3hr 1min 47sec 2. B Glasner (Ger) at 13sec. 3. L Malcolm (SA) same time. 4. P Wadecki (Pol) at 14sec 5. H Bernutz (Ger) at 18sec

LINCOLN GRAND PRIX (102 miles) 1. J Tanner (Controlware) 4hr 13min 26sec 2 C Walker (Team Invader) at 29sec. 3. S Hempsall (unattached) at 3min 54sec

WYRE FOREST CRC (Stourport, 56 miles) 1. S Fanoll (Tunstall Wheelers) 2:06:46. 2, G Williams (Oxford University CC) at 13sec; 3. S Dring (Terry Wright Cycles) at 14sec

JOHN MAY MEMORIAL (Notton, near Wakefield, 64 miles). 1. T Gill (Price Racing) 2:50:00; 2. R Moore (Cottingham Coureurs) at 20sec. 3. C Newton (Batley CC) at 30sec

JIM LYON MEMORIAL (Dundee, 45 miles) 1. W Matthews (West Highland Wheelers) 2:15 00. 2, L McLeod (Ivy CC) same time 3. M Laing (Perth United) at 40sec

STEVENAGE CC (National veterans' scratches, 72 miles) 1. M Whitehead (VC Deal) 3 18.35. 2. M Robinson (T-Rex) 3. E Erb (Letchworth Velo) all same time

Time trials

WINNERS: RTTC men's national 10-mile championship (Barton-on-Humber). J Clay (Manchester Phoenix) 20min 42sec. RTTC women's national 10-mile championship (Wymondham, Norfolk) Y McGregor (Adidas-SciCon) 21min 15sec (championship record) Team: Lusso 1hr 09min 20sec. Scottish CU 100km team championship (Aberdeen): Edinburgh BC A (I Spence, R Todd, B Cook, C Robertson) 2hr 22min 55sec (course record) Eastern Counties CA (Boreham, Essex, 50 miles): R Jackson (Hounslow and District Wheelers) 1hr 55min 05sec Team: Lewes Wanderers 5:54:27. Cheshire RC (Chelford 50 miles): P Pearce (Withington Wheelers) 1hr 56min 21sec. Team: Congleton CC 6:40:08 Holme Valley Wheelers (Baldersby, North Yorkshire, 50 miles): G Metcalfe (Otley CC) 1hr 56min 28sec Team: Scarborough Paragon (fastest third rider) 2 04 53. West Cheshire TTCA (Broxton, 50 miles): J Howard (Merseyside Wheelers) 1hr 57min 59sec. Team: Crewe Clarion Wheelers 6:08 35 New Forest CC (Highcliffe, 32 miles): C Brooks (VC Camelot) 1hr 14min *30sec (course record)* Team: Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers 4 02 38 Andover Wheelers (25 miles) Brooks 52min 40sec Team: Bournemouth Jubilee 2 46 52 Stone Wheelers (Staffordshire, 25 miles) M Belfield (Stone Wheelers) 55min 42sec Team: Stone Wheelers 3:00.25 Banbury Star CC (Bicester, 25 miles) E Adkins (Leo RC) 56min 38sec Team: Banbury Star CC 3:08 41 Addiscombe CC (Crawley, 25 miles) M Meades (API Resprays) 56min 39sec Team. GS Stella 2 56:02 Wisbech Wheelers (25 miles) A Newark (CC Breckland) 56min 43sec Team: CC Breckland 2 55:06 Rotherham Wheelers (Blyth, North Nottinghamshire, 25 miles) D Walker (Leicestershire RC) 56min 54sec. Team: Rutland CC 2 59 38 Wigmore CC (Old Romney, Kent 25 miles) A Archer (GS Invicta) 57min 52sec. Team: San Fairy Ann CC 3:05 39 Sherwood CC (Barrowby, Lincolnshire, 25 miles) N Porless (Malton Olympic) 58min 08sec Team: Coalville Wheelers 3:05 10 Evesham and District Wheelers (10 miles) S Dangerfield (Wheelbase RT) 20min 49sec Team: Cheltenham and County CC 1 08 34 Brough Wheelers (South Cave near Hull, 10 miles) A Hutchinson (Polytechnic CC) 21min 37sec Team: Lindsey ROC 1 10 31 East Bradford CC (Tadcaster, 10 miles). E Taylor (East Bradford CC) 21min 52sec Cleveland Wheelers (Crathorne, North Yorkshire, 10 miles) S Fullerton (Richmond and Darlington CC) *21min* 55sec Team. Stockton Wheelers 1:07 23

GOLF

DULUTH, Georgia: BellSouth Atlanta Classic: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated) 205: S McCarron 70. 69. 66; D Duval 66. 66. 73 207: D Toms 69. 68, 70 208: W Glasson 69. 70 69, N Price (Zim) 66. 67, 75 209: B Henninger 70. 71, 68. A Magee 70. 71, 68; L Janzen 69. 70. 70 210: K Gibson 73. 69. 68, R Estes 68 74. 68. G Day 69, 72. 69, S Gump 69. 71. 70, R Gamez 72, 68, 70 J Haas 68. 71. 71, D Hart 69, 69, 72, G Norman (Aus) 70, 67, 73. 211: H Sutton 69, 74 68; D Pooley 64, 70, 77. 212. J D Blake 72. 71, 69. B Chamblee 75, 68, 69, K Sutherland 71, 71, 70; B Fleisher 70, 72, 70, N Lancaster 73, 68, 71; S Pate 71, 69, 72; C Bowden 69, 70, 73 T Pernice 70, 69, 73

OLD HICKORY, Tennessee: LPGA Sara Lee Classic: Leaders after two rounds (United States unless stated): 136: K Robbins 70, 66 137: C Figg-Currier 71, 66 T-J Myers 70, 67 139: K Saiki 70, 69, M McGann 69, 70; J Piers 69. 70, N Harvey (Can) 67, 72 140: A Dibos (Sp) 72. 68, S Turner 71. 69. D Eggeling 71, 69. A Benz 71, 69: C Matthew (Swe) 70. 70, J Lidback (Peru) 69, 71: H Alfredsson (Swe) 66 74 Other European scores: 141: C Hj Koch (Swe) 74 67 142: S Croce (It) 71. 71 145: E Dahllof (Swe) 74. 71 C Sorenstam (Swe) 73 72 148: P Johnson (GB) 74. 72, L Hackney (GB) 73. 73, S Strudwick (GB) 71, 75

PORTUGAL: Estoril Open: Leading final scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated) 202: M Sutton 63. 68, 71. 203: K Orum (Den) 66, 66, 71 207: S Waugh (Aus) 68. 73. 66 208: D Barnard 67. 75. 66. A-M Knight (Aus) 69. 70, 69. H Wadsworth 69. 70, 69; L Fairclough 66. 67. 75 209: J Mills (Aus) 72, 68, 69, A-C Jonasson (Swe) 68 *69 72 210: P Sturrier (Swe) 70. 74, 66; M* Hjorth (Swe) 73. 71. 66 M Murray 72. 71. 67 211: K Lunn (Aus) 74. 70 67. F Dassu (It) 74, 69 68. M-L de Lorenzi (Fr) 69. 73. 69. P Rigby-Jinglov (Swe) 71. 71. 69. J Head 69, 71. 71. M-T Pistolet (Fr) 68. 65, 78

GYMNASTICS

GUILDFORD: British women's championship: Seniors: 1. L Mason (Huntingdon) 36 700pts 2. A Reeder (Basildon) 36 150. 3 G Cuff (Heathrow) 34 775 4. G Fuchs (Harrow) 34 287 5. J Cox (Heathrow) 33 825 6. P Thomas (Basildon) 33 475 12-13s: 1. K Lennon (Leatherhead and Dorking) 34 400pts. 2. J Eaton (Leatherhead and Dorking) 33 125. 3, S Horne (Wessex) 32 950. 4. R Kells (N Ire) 32 550. 5, V Eaton (Alderwood) 32 300. 6 equal. C Gilbert (Basildon) and B Baigre (Pinewood) 32 275 Juniors: 1. M Wilcox (Bristol) 35 262pts. 2 H Murdoch (N Ire) 34 762. 3 E Williams (Liverpool) 32 887 4. A Burke (Garstang) 31 662. 5. S Grice *(Liverpool)* 30 637 6. K Featherstone (Liverpool) 30 450

HOCKEY

HA CUP: Reading 1 Teddington 2.

HA TROPHY: Final: De Montfort Univ (Bedford) 0 West Herts 4

VETERANS' CUP: Khalsa (Midlands) 6 Bishop's Stortford 2

VETERANS' TROPHY: Eastcote 2 Basingstoke 1

SCOTTISH MEN'S CUP: Final: MIM 0 DT Gordonians 2

AEWHA CUP: Semi-finals: Doncaster 0 Hightown 2. Ipswich 2 Clifton 4.

AEWHA PLATE: Semi-finals: Driffield 2 Camberley 2 (Driffield win 4-3 on penalty strokes). Poynton 2 Leominster 0

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S CUP: Final: Edinburgh Ladies 2 Grove 1

MILTON KEYNES: English women's under-19 club championship: Bradford 0 Harleston Magpies 0. Olton WW 4 Portishead Firebrands 1: Harleston 2 East Grinstead 0, Portishead 2 Bradford 1, East Grinstead 0 Olton 6, Portishead 1 Harleston 1, Bradford 3 East Grinstead 1, Harleston 0 Olton 1. East Grinstead 1 Portishead 2; Olton 4 Bradford 1 Final positions: 1, Olton 12pts 2, Portishead 7; 3. Harleston 5. 4. Bradford 4, 5, Grinstead 0

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Play-offs: *Semi-finals: Eastern Conference: Buffalo 5* Philadelphia 4 (OT, Philadelphia lead best-of-seven series 3-1). Western Conference: Colorado 3 Edmonton 2 (OT, Colorado lead best-of-seven series 3-1)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: At Helsinki: Championship group: Finland 2 United States 0 Third-place play-off: Czech Republic 4 Russia 3 Final, first leg: Canada 2 Sweden 3 At Tampere: Relegation group: Latvia 5 Slovakia 4. Italy 8 France 1

JUDO

OSTEND: European championships (selected results) Men: Under 60kg: Third-place play-off: G Giovinazzo (It) bt J Johnson (GB) Final: R Mamedov (Bela) bt Y Douma (Fr) Under 65kg: Third-place play-off: J Davis (GB) bt G Bengtsson (Swe) Final: H Ozcan (Tur) bt G Revazishvili (Geo) Under 71kg: Third-place play-off: D Kingston (GB) bt G Bentos (Por) Final: G Vazagashvili (Geo) bt A Laroukov (Russ) Under 78kg: Final: J Laats (Bel) bt D Bouras (Fr) Under 86kg: Final: M Huizinga (Holl) bt S Kischin (Austria) Under 95kg: Final: B Sonnemans (Holl) bt G Lemaire (Fr) Over 95kg: S Tataroglu (Tur) bt D van der Geest (Holl) Open: Final: H van Barneveld (Bel) bt V Hever (Cer) Women: Under 48kg: Semi-final: A Gradante (It) bt J Heron (GB) Third-place play-off: T Moskvina (Bela) bt Heron. Final: S Melour (Fr) bt Gradante. Under 52kg: Final: I Clement (Bel) bt E Kantskaia (Bela) Under 56kg: Final: M Lomba (Bel) bt I Fernandez (Sp). Under 61kg: Third-place play-off: I Tokarz (Pol) bt C Peel (GB) Final. G Vandecaveye (Bel) bt M Vemerova (Cz) Under 66kg: Third-place play-off: K Howey (GB) bt N Ognjenovic (Yug) Final: Y Wansart (Ger) bt U Martin (Sp) Under 72kg. Semi-final: C Cowen (GB) bt S Richter (Rom) Final: U Werbrouck (Bel) bt Cowen Over 72kg: Semi-final: M Rogers (GB) bt B Maksymow (Pol). Final: J Hagen (Ger) bt Rogers. Open: Final: B Maksymow (Pol) bt F Harteveld (Holl)

MOTORCYCLING

SNETTERTON: British superbike championship: Third round: First race (18 laps, 35.14 miles): 1, N Mackenzie (Cadburys Boost Yamaha) 20min 45.073sec; 2. C Walker (Cadburys Boost Yamaha) 20:57.269; 3, M Rutter (V and M Honda RC45) 20.57.559; 4, M Llewellyn (Crescent Suzuki) 21:05 530: 5, J Moodie (Crescent Suzuki) 21:08.460 Second race (15 laps): 1, Walker 17 32.165. 2, Mackenzie 17:37 584; 3. Llewellyn 17:42.619; 4, Moodie 17:43 943; 5, S Emmett (GSE Ducati) 17:49 367 Leading championship positions: Riders: 1, Mackenzie 122pts; 2, Walker 103, 3. J Reynolds (Ducati) 73; 4, Emmett 69; 5. Moodie 64. Manufacturers: 1. Yamaha 141pts; 2, Ducati 101; 3. Kawasaki 79: 4, Suzuki 71; 5, Honda 48 Teams: 1, Cadburys Boost Yamaha 225pts. 2. Crescent Suzuki 122; 3, Red Bull Ducati 105. Shell Advance 125cc British Championship: Third round (12 laps): 1. P Robinson (Honda) 17min 39 849sec, 2. A Green (Honda) 17.55 990. 3, S Patrickson (Honda) 17:56.825 Fourth round (12 laps) 1, D Barton (Honda) *12 53 076, 2, P Owens* (Honda) 12:53.680; 3, F Mendes (Honda) 12.53.297. Leading championship positions: 1, Mendes 70pts, 2, Owens 52; 3, Barton 51 Shell Advance 250cc British championship: Fourth round (20 laps): 1, M Coates (Honda) 25min 43.495sec; 2, J Vincent (Honda) 25:48 418; 3, S Smart (Honda) *25:58.219* Leading championship positions: 1, Smart 91pts, 2. Coates 61: 3, Vincent 60 Shell Advance Supersport 600 championship: Third round (18 laps): 1, D Thomas (Honda) 22min 03 803sec. 2. J Moodie (Suzuki) 22:03.887. 3. P Borley (Honda) 22:10.279 Leading championship positions: 1. *Thomas* 48, 2. *Heal* 41; 3. *I Simpson* (Honda) 36.

MOTOR RALLYING

MANX RALLY: 1, J McRae and R Arthur (MG Metro 6R4) 1hr 50min 15sec; 2. B Lyall and J Bennie (Subaru Impreza 555) *1:50 18; 3, S Hill and J Rabbett* (Mitsubishi Lancer) 1:51:05. 4, J Price and B Sturrock (MG Metro 6R4) 1:51.38, 5. K McKinstry and R Philpott (Porsche 911) 1:52:53; 6, S Harron and P McCrea (Subaru Legacy) 1:53 49. 7, M Grierson and S Merry (Subaru Impreza) 1.53 50; 8, N Worswick and C Molyneux (Ford Sierra Cosworth) 1:54:08; 9, R Duckworth and M Broomfield (Subaru *Impreza) 1 54.19; 10,* S Smith and J Kitson (Lancia Delta Int) 1.55:33

REAL TENNIS

HOLYPORT: Potterton British professional singles championship: Second round: M Gooding bt M Ryan 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. R Gunn bt *C Swallow 6-1, 6-0, 6-4; P Tabley* bt K Fung 6-0, 6-0, 6-2: N Wood bt H Latham 6-2, 6-1, 6-3; C Bray bt S Virgona 6-4, 6-0, 6-2; J Male bt D Jones 6-2, 6-0, 6-2; J Howell bt S Brockenshaw 6-0, 6-0, 6-1; L Deuchar bt M Seigneur 6-1, 6-0, 6-1. Quarter-finals: Gooding bt Gunn 6-3, 6-1, 5-6, 6-1, Wood bt Tabley 6-4, 3-6, 6-5, 6-4; Male bt Bray 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-5, 6-4. Deuchar bt Howell 6-3, 6-4, 6-5. Semi-finals: Gooding bt Wood 6-4, 0-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Deuchar bt Male 6-4, 1-6, 6-2, 1-6, 6-1.

SHOOTING

BISLEY: English VIII club meeting (1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards): Lord Cottesloe's Cup: 1, J Carmichael 399pts; 2, J Bridger 396; 3, D Friend 394. Scottish VIII Cup: 1, W Sharman 399pts; 2, J McAllister 398; 3, H Hunter 381. The Welsh Cup: 1, P Gray 373pts; 2, *N Bartlett* 372; 3, *L Bristor* 371. Saturday aggregate: 1, A Cargill-Thompson 204pts; 2, K Pilcher 203, 3, Sharman 203 Sunday aggregate: 1, Carmichael 200pts; 2, C O'Brien 198; 3, Sharman 196. 1,200 yards aggregate: 1, Friend 123pts, 2, R Meldrum 121; 3, Sharman 196. Bisley King George V Challenge Cup (English County Championship): Southern heat: 1, Berkshire 1,122pts; 2, London 1,115; 3, Hampshire 1,098. East Anglia heat: 1, Norfolk 1,133pts, 2, Hertfordshire 1,122; 3, Suffolk 1,119. Home Counties heat: 1, Surrey 1,119pts, 2, Sussex 1,108; 3, Kent 1,094.

SNOOKER

DR MARTENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt J White (Eng) 7-1; J Parrott (Eng) drew with White 4-4.

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Belle Vue 61 Poole 29; Peterborough 50 Coventry 40; Bradford 44 Poole 45; Coventry 42 King's Lynn 48. Postponed: Eastbourne v Swindon

PREMIER LEAGUE: Arena Essex 51 Newport 38.

PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Edinburgh 55 *Sheffield 35*; Oxford 53 Hull 37. Postponed: Berwick v Newcastle; Skegness v Oxford; Skegness v Reading; Glasgow v Edinburgh; Newcastle v Berwick.

AMATEUR LEAGUE: Belle Vue 36 Wolverhampton and Long Eaton 40, Peterborough 52 Buxton 26, Buxton 48 Lathallan 29.

CHALLENGE MATCH: Newport 60 Premier League All-Stars 30.

SQUASH

LAS VEGAS: Women's open tournament: Quarter-finals: S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt R Grinham (Aus) 9-2, 9-5, 9-0; T Weeks (Aus) bt K Major (Aus) 9-7, 9-2, 6-9, 9-7; R Macree (Eng) bt T Shenton (Eng) 1-9, 9-1, 9-6, 9-7; E Irving (Aus) bt H van Hoorn (Holl) *9-3, 9-5, 9-2* Semi-finals: Fitz-Gerald bt Weeks 9-4, 9-0, 9-5; Irving bt Macree 9-0, 7-9, 9-0, 9-1

NOTTINGHAM: Prince national club championships: Men: Semi-finals: Colets Club (Surrey) 3 Nottingham 2 (Colets names first: D Meddings lost to M Oxley 5-9, 4-9, 1-9; P Gunter bt M Hopkins 9-2, 9-3, *10-8; R Owen lost to N Douglas 9-7,* 9-10, 9-10, 9-6, 3-9; A Thomson bt N Burd 2-9, 9-2, 9-7, 9-1, G Pearman bt Y Wathan 9-3, 9-0, 9-2); Pontefract 5 Redwood Lodge (Bristol) 0 (Pontefract names first: D Ryan bt H Stiff 9-6, 9-4, 9-6. L Beachill bt D Mebbs 9-3, 9-1, 9-1; P Hornsby bt I Pudge 9-1, 9-1, 9-2; N Gurvey bt J Hunt 9-0, 9-1, 9-0. J Willstrop bt M Rich 9-4, 9-6, 9-5). Final: Pontefract 3 Colets 2 (Pontefract names first: Ryan bt Meddings 9-1, 9-0, 9-1 Beachill bt Gunter 9-1, 9-3, 9-4, Hornsby bt Owen 9-3, 9-7, 9-4; Gurvey lost to Thomson 7-9, 1-9, 1-9; Donelan lost to Pearman 9-2, *5-9, 1-9, 2-9). Women:* Semi-finals: Pontefract 4 Racquets Club (Buckinghamshire) 1 (Pontefract names first. J Thacker lost to S Wright 3-9, 5-9, 7-9, V Botwright bt S Downhill 9-5, 9-0, 9-2: K Allison bt K Gifford 9-0, 9-1, 9-1; G Topliss bt D John 9-0, 9-0, 9-1; C Beaumont bt A Terry 9-2, 9-0, 9-1). Lee-on-Solent 4 Nottingham 1 (Lee-on-*Solent names first* L Charman bt H Pickerson 9-4, 9-0, 9-0; S Tweedie bt V Purchase 9-4, 9-2, 9-0, J Tower bt M Davids 9-2, 9-0, 9-3; T Slaughter bt H Blewitt 9-0, 9-0, 9-0; H Edwards lost to M Lindgun 1-9, 0-9, 4-9). Final: Lee-on-Solent 4 Pontefract 1 (Lee-on-Solent names first. Charman bt Thacker 9-1, 9-4, 9-5; Shenton bt Botwright 9-4, 9-4, 9-7; Tweedie bt Allison 9-1, 10-9, 9-4, 9-1, 9-0 9-5: Tower bt Topliss 9-4, 9-1, 9-0 Slaughter lost to Beaumont 10-8, 2-9, 8-10, 2-9) Mixed juniors: Final: Pontefract 4 Wycliffe School 1 (Pontefract names first: P Hornsby bt A Stait 7-9, 3-9, 9-3, 9-3, 10-8; N Gurvey bt D May 10-9, 1-9, 9-7, 9-4: J Willstrop bt I Cornes 9-7, 9-1, 9-6; L Dedio lost to E Morgans 0-9, 3-9, 0-9; fifth string a Pontefract walkover)

TABLE TENNIS

BATH: Yasaka international grand prix Finals: Men: A Cooke (Derbyshire) bt N Mason (Sussex) 21-15, 21-8 Women: K *Owolabi (Middlesex) bt S Collier (Berkshire)* 21-17, 23-21

TENNIS

HAMBURG: Men's tournament: Semi-finals: A Medvedev (Ukr) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-3, 6-1; F Mantilla (Sp) bt T Haas (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 Final: Medvedev bt Mantilla 6-0, 6-4, 6-2.

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: J Bjorkman (Swe) bt J A Viloca (Sp) 6-4, 7-6; S Campbell (US) bt S Sargsian (Arm) 6-1, 6-3; J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt D Witt (US) 6-1, 7-5, J van Herck (Bel) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 3-6, 6-2, 6-3. Semi-finals: *Bjorkman bt Campbell 6-4,* 4-6, 6-4, Stoltenberg bt Van Herck 6-3, 6-3.

ROME: Women's tournament: Quarter-final: P. Schnyder (Switz) bt A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 6-1, 6-1. Semi-finals: M Pierce (Fr) bt B Paulus (Austria) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1: C Martinez (Sp) bt Schnyder 6-2, 6-2 Final: Pierce bt Martinez 6-4, 6-0

LEE-ON-SOLENT: LTA spring satellite tournament: Men: Semi-finals: A Belobrajdic (Aus) bt R Gilbert (Fr) 7-6, 6-0: J Weinzierl (Ger) bt J Chauvin (Fr) 4-0 ret. Final: Belobrajdic bt Weinzierl 6-4, 6-2 Women: Final: J Steck (SA) bt M Lamarre (Fr) 6-3, 6-2

ATP RANKINGS: 1, P Sampras (US) *5,118pts*, 2. M Chang (US) 3,704; 3, T Muster (Austria) 3,254, 4, Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3,023; 5, R Krajicek (Holl) 2,885; 6, G Ivanisevic (Cro) 2,710, 7. M Rios (Chile) 2,240, 8, T Enqvist (Swe) 2,176, 9, C Moya (Sp) 2,154; 10, W Ferreira (SA) 1,935; 11, A Corretja (Sp) 1,923; 12. A Costa (Sp) 1,856. 13, B Becker (Ger) 1,764. 14. T Martin (US) 1,673; 15. F Mantilla (Sp) 1,637, 16. T Henman (GB) 1,546.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League

Castleford 8 Paris 13

Castleford Tigers: Try: Steadman Goals: Orr, Tonks. Paris Saint-Germain: Tries: Bergman, O'Donnell Goals Robinson 2 Dropped goal: O Connor Att: 3,098

Halifax 42 Warrington 30

Halifax Blue Sox: Tries: M Jackson 2, Tuilagi 2, Bouveng, Chester, Rowley Goals: Pearson 6, Chester Warrington: Tries: Wingfield 2, Briers, Kohe-Love, P Sculthorpe, Vagana Goals: Briers 3 Att: 5,356.

Salford 20 Leeds 33

Salford Reds: Tries: Forber, McAvoy, Sini, Watson Goals: Blakeley 2 Leeds Rhinos. Tries: Hassan 2, Sterling 2, Harris, Sheridan. Goals. Harris 3, Holroyd Dropped goal: Holroyd Att: 5,921

Sheffield 14 Oldham 18

Sheffield Eagles: Tries: Broadbent, Garcia, Stott. Goal: Aston Oldham Bears: Tries: Abram, Hill, Jones, Leuila. Goal: Goodwin Att: 4,000

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Wigan Warriors 38 London Broncos 10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Bradford	8	8	0	0	279	136	16
*St Helens	8	7	0	1	259	109	14
Leeds	10	7	0	3	240	194	14
Halifax	10	6	1	3	255	217	13
Salford	9	6	0	3	169	188	12
London	9	5	1	3	258	187	11
Wigan	9	5	0	4	197	161	10
Warrington	9	4	0	5	226	314	8
Sheffield	9	2	0	7	164	225	4
Oldham	9	2	0	7	182	263	4
Paris	10	2	0	8	163	255	4
Castleford	10	0	0	10	123	266	0

* *not including last night's match*

First division

Dewsbury 31 Whitehaven 20

Dewsbury Rams: Tries: Crouthers 2, Dixon, Moore, Patterson Goals: Eaton 5 Dropped goal: Patterson Whitehaven Warriors: Tries: Hetherington, Palmer, Rose Goals: Hetherington 4 Att: 830

Keighley 34 Featherstone 30

Keighley Cougars: Tries: Owen 2, Critchley, Eyres, Filipo, Pachniuk-Courtney Goals: Irving 5 Featherstone Rovers: Tries: Slater 2, Molloy, Summers Goals: Fox 7 Att: 2,647

Swinton 18 Wakefield 20

Swinton Lions: Tries: Ashcroft 2, Adams Goals: Pearce 3 Wakefield Trinity: Tries. Banquet, Clarkson, Davis Goals: Davis 3 Dropped goals: Davis, Froudman Att: 1,275

Widnes 12 Huddersfield 30

Widnes Vikings. Tries: Long, Wall Goals Long 2 Huddersfield Giants. Tries: Russell 2, Barton, Hanger, Kerig, Weston Goals: Coventry 2, Weston Att: [illegible]

Workington 18 Hull 34

Workington Town: Tries: Campbell 2, Baildon, Fatnowna. Goal: Bethwaite Hull: Tries: Vaikona 3, Donohue Holmes Goals: Hewitt 7 Att: 1,461

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull	10	9	1	0	291	101	19
Huddersfield	10	9	0	1	320	146	18
Wakefield	10	6	1	3	209	210	13
Keighley	10	5	1	4	256	203	11
Whitehaven	10	5	1	4	193	211	11
Dewsbury	10	5	0	5	191	223	10
Featherstone	10	3	1	6	209	215	7
Hull KR	10	3	1	6	198	207	7
Swinton	10	3	0	7	154	248	6
Workington	10	2	0	8	186	259	4
Widnes	10	2	0	8	126	310	4

Second division

Doncaster 0 Bramley 40

Bramley: Tries: Cook 3, A Gibbons 2 Gibson Hinchcliffe Pickles Goals: Pickles 4 Att: 527

Prescot 6 Carlisle 34

Prescot Panthers: Try: Barber Goal: Thorburn Carlisle Border Raiders: Tries: G Ruddy, Holt, Manihera, Menzies, Rhodes, Richardson Goals: Richardson 5 Att: 183

Rochdale 44 Batley 12

Rochdale Hornets: Tries: Pachniuk 3 Bunce 2 Gartland, Morrison, Goals: Gartland 8 Batley Bulldogs: Tries: Appleby 2, Walker Att: 864

York 10 Hunslet 22

York Wasps: Try: Walsh Goals: Green 3 Hunslet Hawks: Tries: Baker 3, Pechey 2 Goal: Mansson Att: 787

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Lancashire Lynx 34 Leigh Centurions 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rochdale	10	9	0	1	319	162	18
Carlisle	10	8	0	2	256	120	16
Hunslet	10	7	0	3	318	134	14
Lancashire L	10	7	0	3	276	212	14
Leigh	10	7	0	3	276	214	14
Batley	10	6	0	4	314	205	12
Bramley	10	3	1	6	201	218	7
York	10	3	0	7	239	256	6
Barrow	9	3	0	6	184	317	6
Prescot	10	1	0	9	110	384	2
Doncaster	11	0	1	10	137	398	1

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP. Hull Kingston Rovers 28 Castleford 16 Salford 12 Leeds 54

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: West Hull 29 Wigan St Patrick's 8, Woolston 19 Dudley Hill 31 First division: Askam 46 Thornhill 22 Second division: York Acorn 10 Skirlaugh 36

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL) Manly-Warringah 26 Gold Coast Chargers 26 Parramatta 25 Balmain 14 Illawarra Steelers 2 Western Suburbs 6 South Queensland Crushers 22 North Sydney 36

Mary Pierce, of France, returns the ball during her victory over Conchita Martinez, of Spain, in the final of the Italian Open yesterday. Martinez's defeat ended her run of 24 consecutive wins at the Foro Italico

ATHLETICS

Track and field

GATESHEAD: North East Championships: Men: 100m: J Deacon (Morpeth) 11 18sec 400m: Deacon 48.64sec 1,500m: M Openshaw (Chester-le-Street) 3min 50 38sec 110m hurdles: S McAree (Newham and Essex Beagles) 15 09sec. Pole vault: R Hunter (Gateshead) 3 40m. Triple jump: A Walker (Army) 15.08m. Shot: P Corrigan (Gateshead) 13.34m. Discus: P Reed (Morpeth) 51 82m. Women: 200m: D Kerr (Jarrow and Hebburn) 25.35sec. 800m: D Heneghan (Morpeth) 2min 11 20sec. 100m hurdles: K Crowther (Middlesbrough and Cleveland) 14.67m. Long jump: Crowther 5.55m. Discus: Crowther 32.84m. Javelin: A Humble (North Shields Poly) 34.66m.

WIMBLEDON PARK: Surrey Championships: Men: 200m: J Livingston (Shaftesbury Barnet) 21 9sec 800m: B Witchalls (Dorking and Mole Valley) 1min 56 0sec 1,500m: J Beeraje (Kingston and Poly) 3min 57 6sec. 5,000m: P Hayward (Crawley) 14min 53 3sec. 3,000m steeplechase: J Harvey (Walton) 10min 00.2sec. 110m hurdles: C Allen (Herne Hill) 15.1sec. 400m hurdles: G Sandy (Hercules Wimbledon) 52.9sec High jump: W Caswell (Woodford Green) 2 03m Long jump: T Huntley (Blackheath) 7 12m. Triple jump: R Walker (Walton) 12.47m Shot: E Udechuku *(Blackheath) 18.78m* Discus: Udechuku 50 04m. Hammer: G Cook (Sutton) 58 34m. Women: 100m: S Williams (Walton) 12.1sec 200m: Williams 24 7sec. *800m: J Mitchell (Croydon) 2min* 06 2sec 1,500m: Z Hyde (Woking) 4min 28 9sec 3,000m: C Pauzers (Herne Hill) 9min 56 3sec. 100m hurdles: O Burke (Croydon) 14.5sec 400m hurdles: K Norman (Walton) 62.5sec High jump: D Mikenviviute (Essex Ladies) 1 63m Pole vault: L Schramm (Epsom and Ewell) 3.40m Long jump: E Ghojeta (Epsom and Ewell) 6.15m Discus: S Drew (Sutton) 53 52m. Hammer: J Smith (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 42.26m (championship record). Javelin: L Cook (Croydon) 40.68m.

OSAKA, Japan: Grand Prix meeting: Winners and British: Men: 200m: F Fredericks (Nam) 19 90sec 800m: J Gray (US) 1min 46 98sec 5,000m: D Komen (Ken) 13min 03.51sec 110m hurdles: A Dees (US) 13.37sec Pole vault: S Huffman (US) 5.60m Long jump: J Beckford (Jam) 8.30m. Javelin: J Zelezny (Cz) 88 38m. Women: 800m: D Modahl (GB) 2min 02.79sec. 5,000m: Wei Li (China) 15min 17 02sec 400m hurdles: D Hemmings (Jam) 53 85. High jump: S Kostadinova (Bul) 2.02m. Triple jump: 1, S Kasparkova (Cz) 14.72; 2, A Hansen (GB) 14 47

Road running

KINGSTON: Coombe Hill five miles: 1, G Staines (Belgrave) 24min 04sec *(course record)*; 2, S Fairbrother (Boxhill Racers) 24:49; 3, L Zone (Hercules Wimbledon) 25:55. Women: 1, J Kiplino (Ken) 26min 43sec (course record); 2, M Jones (Hercules Wimbledon) 30:09; 3. J Davies (Epsom and Ewell) 31:48.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Friday: Texas 5 Boston 1; Cleveland 5 Detroit 0; Seattle 8 Baltimore 2: Kansas City 7 New York Yankees 5 (12inns); Chicago White Sox 3 Oakland 2 (10inns); Milwaukee 5 Anaheim 4, Toronto 4 Minnesota 1 Saturday: Texas 11 Boston 5, Detroit 6 Cleveland 0; Seattle 3 *Baltimore 2 (11inns); New York Yankees 5* Kansas City 2; Milwaukee 4 Anaheim 3 (10inns); Chicago White Sox 9 Oakland 8; Toronto 6 Minnesota 4.

East division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	22	11	667	—
NY Yankees	20	16	556	3½
Toronto	18	15	545	4
Boston	15	19	.441	7½
Detroit	14	21	.400	9
Central division				
Milwaukee	17	14	548	—
Cleveland	17	16	515	1
Kansas City	17	16	515	1
Chicago WS	13	19	.406	4½
Minnesota	14	22	389	5½
West division				
Seattle	21	13	.618	—
Texas	18	14	563	2
Anaheim	14	18	.438	6
Oakland	15	21	417	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Friday: Florida 3 Houston 2; Philadelphia 3 Colorado 1, Pittsburgh 9 Atlanta 0; New York Mets 10 St Louis 3; Los Angeles 5 Montreal 1; Cincinnati 7 San Diego 2 Postponed: Chicago Cubs v San Francisco Saturday: San Francisco 4 Chicago Cubs 2, Houston *4 Florida 2; Philadelphia 5 Colorado 4* (10inns); Atlanta 9 Pittsburgh 3; New York Mets 2 St Louis 0, Los Angeles 2 Montreal 1; San Diego 9 Cincinnati 6

East division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	24	11	686	—
Florida	19	16	543	5
Montreal	17	16	515	6
New York Mets	18	18	500	6½
Philadelphia	12	22	353	11½
Central division				
Houston	20	16	556	—
Pittsburgh	19	16	543	½
St Louis	16	19	457	3½
Cincinnati	11	23	.324	8
Chicago Cubs	10	24	294	9
West division				
Colorado	21	13	618	—
San Francisco	20	13	.606	½
Los Angeles	20	13	606	½
San Diego	13	20	394	7½

RUGBY UNION

Pilkington Cup

Final

Leicester 9 Sale 3

Leicester: Pens. Stransky 3 Sale Pen. Mannix.

(at Twickenham)

Courage Clubs Championship

First division play-offs Second legs

Bristol 19 Bedford 12

Bristol: Tries: Corry, Maggs. Pens: Burke 3 Bedford: Tries: Matchett, Pechey Con Rees.

(Bristol win 39-23 on aggregate)

London Irish 28 Coventry 7

London Irish: Tries: Halpin, Humphreys, Woods. Cons: Humphreys 2. Pens: Humphreys 3. Coventry: Try: Robinson Con. Horrell.

(London Irish win 42-23 on aggregate)

Third division

Exeter 48 Otley 19

Exeter: Tries: Armstrong 2, Maunder, Dovell, Turner, Woodman Cons: Green 3, Fabian 2 Pen. Fabian Otley: Tries: Kirkby 2, Gardner Cons: Rutledge 2

Havant 30 Harrogate 15

Havant: Tries: Pinnock 2, Rubenstein Cons: Russell 3 Pens: Russell 2 Dropped goal: Russell. Harrogate: Tries: Bell, Simpson Con: Zoing Pen: Zoing

Liverpool St H 0 Leeds 48

Leeds: Tries: Cawthorn 2, Tupoulotu, penalty try Cons. Morgan, Tupoulotu 4, Ainscough Pen: Tupoulotu

Morley 33 Lydney 13

Morley: Tries: Naivalurua 2, Shepherd 2, Wade Con: M Sales Pens: M Sales 2 Lydney: Tries: Bartlett, G Williams Pen: Johnson.

Walsall 13 Rosslyn Park 35

Walsall: Try: Mallis Con: Mills Pens: Mills 2 Rosslyn Park: Tries: Robinson 2, Booth, Mason, Sandlands Cons: Sandlands 2 Pens: Sandlands 2.

Wharfedale 15 Reading 13

Wharfedale: Tries: Hodgson, Verity Con: Mounsey Pen: Mounsey Reading: Try Dance Con: Dance Pens. Dance 2

LEADING SCORERS: 404: S Gough (Fylde, 7 tries, 57 conversions, 86 penalty goals, 3 dropped goals) 336: R Mills (Walsall, 4t, 41c, 81pc, 2dg) 307: G Ainscough (Leeds, 1t, 45c, 45pg) 300: C Raymond (London Welsh, [illegible]) 29[illegible]: A Green (Exeter, 5t, 57c, 54pg) [illegible]: S Rutledge (Otley [illegible]) [illegible]: J Dance (Reading [illegible]) [illegible]: R Zoing (Harrogate [illegible]) [illegible]: P Morris (Lydney [illegible]) [illegible]: P Eilen (Liverpool St Helens [illegible]) Tries: 22: M Kirkby (Otley) 20: A Hodgson (Wharfedale) M Preston (Fylde) 16: M Appleson (Leeds) 15: J Shepherd (Morley) S Tupoulotu (Leeds), 9 Wade (Morley) 14. Ainscough, Exell, S Dovell (Exeter) M Woodman (Exeter) Dropped goals: 7 Raymond 5 C Stephens (Leeds) Zoing 4, J Fabian (Havant)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fylde	30	24	1	5	813	439	49
Leeds	30	24	0	6	1209	432	48
Exeter	29	24	0	5	910	440	48
Morley	29	21	0	8	650	553	42
Reading	29	17	1	11	566	613	35
Harrogate	29	17	0	12	788	595	34
Wharfedale	29	17	0	12	699	607	34
Rosslyn Park	29	16	0	13	602	599	32
Otley	30	13	0	17	720	766	26
Lydney	30	13	0	17	668	766	26
L Welsh	30	12	0	18	634	777	24
Liverpool St H	29	9	0	20	651	763	18
Walsall	29	8	0	21	621	902	16
Havant	30	8	0	22	580	954	16
Redruth	30	8	0	22	565	1116	16
Clifton	30	4	0	26	518	1347	8

Fourth division north

Hereford 17 Lichfield 41
Sheffield 12 Kendal 14
Stourbridge 38 Sandal 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester	26	23	2	0	832	378	49
Birmingham	26	19	0	7	746	391	38
Preston Grass	26	17	2	7	568	394	36
Manchester	26	17	1	8	795	504	35
Sandal	26	15	1	10	613	572	31
Stourbridge	26	14	1	11	704	579	29
Winnington P	26	14	1	11	651	565	29
Kendal	26	11	1	14	541	451	23
Sheffield	25	10	2	13	449	466	22
Aspatria	25	10	1	14	599	676	21
Lichfield	26	10	0	16	546	713	20
Nuneaton	26	8	1	17	457	670	17
Hereford	26	4	0	22	287	972	8
Stoke-on-T	26	2	0	24	301	854	4

Fourth division south

Askeans 30 High Wycombe 29
Berry Hill 6 Camberley 11
Charlton Park 17 Weston-s-Mare 31
North Walsham *21 Met Police 17*
Tabard 20 Barking 24

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury	26	25	0	1	1170	295	50
Henley	26	20	2	4	788	456	42
Barking	26	16	1	9	740	496	33
Camberley	26	15	2	9	683	513	32
Cheltenham	26	15	2	9	559	420	32
Plymouth	26	13	3	10	709	591	29
Met Police	26	14	1	11	659	558	29
Tabard	26	10	3	13	511	557	23
Weston-s-M	26	11	0	15	482	515	22
Nth Walsham	26	10	1	15	426	604	21
Berry Hill	26	10	0	16	425	643	20
H Wycombe	26	8	1	17	560	707	17
Charlton Pk	26	3	1	22	351	1140	7
Askeans	26	2	1	23	340	893	5

SOUTH WEST. First division: Stroud 21 Barnstaple 0

NORTH First division: Sedgley Park 18 West Park Bramhope 14

Welsh League

First division

Caerphilly 19 Neath 20

Caerphilly: Tries: D Phillips, Davey, Owen Cons: Davey 2 Neath: Tries: Evans, J Davies Cons: Case 2. Pens: Case 2

Llanelli 53 Ebbw Vale 13

Llanelli: Tries: G Evans 2, Gibbs 2, Hyatt 2, Ford, I Jones, Proctor Cons: Botica 4 *Ebbw Vale: Try: Bisp Con: Hayward Pen:* Hayward Dropped goal: Hayward

Newport 23 Cardiff 11

Newport. Tries: Machacek 2, Burn, Lloyd Pen. S Davies Cardiff Try: Williams Pens. Jarvis 2

Pontypridd 48 Newbridge 15

Pontypridd Tries: Lloyd 3, Cormack, Evans, Ford, J Lewis, Wyatt Cons: Cormack 4 Newbridge: Tries: Gwilym, Perryment Con: J Williams. Pen: J Williams

Swansea 64 Bridgend 17

Swansea: Tries: H Thomas 3, L Davies 2, Jones, Booth, Bucket, Moriarty, Reynolds Cons: *L Davies 7.* Bridgend: Tries: A Williams, Ferris, L Davies Con: Durston

Treorchy 27 Dunvant 46

Treorchy: Tries: P Jones 2, Eggar, Riggs, White Con: Eggar Dunvant: Tries: Kella 2, C Davies, L Williams, Llewellyn M Davies, W Lloyd, Wake. Cons: M Thomas 2 Wake.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Pontypridd	22	20	0	2	944	334	124	22	62
Swansea	22	14	0	8	879	471	123	22	50
Llanelli	22	16	2	4	789	351	111	16	50
Cardiff	22	14	1	7	750	543	99	12	41
Bridgend	22	10	1	11	604	527	79	10	31
Newport	22	12	2	8	541	632	72	5	31
Ebbw Vale	22	12	2	8	431	552	50	4	30
Neath	22	10	0	12	524	603	74	9	29
Dunvant	22	10	2	10	524	601	69	5	27
Caerphilly	22	2	0	20	422	801	59	10	14
Treorchy	22	3	0	19	413	825	57	4	10
Newbridge	22	4	0	18	358	939	45	0	8

SRU Tennents Cup

Final

Boroughmuir 23 Melrose 31

Boroughmuir: Tries McLean 2, Wyllie Con. Aitken Pens: Aitken 2 Melrose. Tries: Shepherd 3, Moncrieff Con: Shepherd Pens. Shepherd 3

(at Murrayfield)

SRU Tennents Shield

Final

Biggar 15 Selkirk 23

Biggar: Tries: Campbell, Ollorenshaw Con: Lavery Pen: Lavery Selkirk: Try: Hulme Pens: Brett 5 Dropped goal: Brett

(at Murrayfield)

SRU Tennents Bowl

Final

Glasgow Hk 46 Hawick 18

Glasgow High/Kelvinside: Tries: Hawkes 3 Common 2, F Wallace Cons: Breckenridge 5 Pens: Breckenridge 2 Hawick Tries: Graham, Hay Stanger Pen: Sharp

(at Murrayfield)

Pacific Rim championship

Canada 53 United States 14

Canada: Tries: Stanley 2, Ross, Charron, *Hutchinson, Snow, penalty try* Cons: Rees 6 Pens: Rees 2 United States: Tries: Scharrenberg, penalty try Cons: Alexander 2

(at Vancouver)

Super 12 tournament

Auckland 45 Wellington 42

Auckland Blues Tries: M Jones 2, Dowd, Spencer 2, Brooke, Vidiri Cons: Cashmore 3 Pens: Spencer 2, Cashmore Wellington Hurricanes: Tries: Umaga 2, Allen, Maka, Cunningham Cons: Preston 4 Pens. Preston 3

(at Eden Park, Auckland)

Queensland 40 Gauteng 27

Queensland Reds: Tries Webster, Little, Smith, Horan, Herbert Cons: Eales 3. Pens: Eales 3 Gauteng Lions: Tries. Rossouw 2, Erasmus? Adlam Cons Du Toit Lubbe Pen. Lubbe

(at Ballymore Brisbane)

Free State 11 Canterbury 16

Free State Cheetahs: Try: Swanepoel Pens: Smith 2 Canterbury Crusaders. Try Lilley Con. Lilley Pens: Lilley 3

(at Bloemfontein)

Natal 27 N Transvaal 27

Natal Sharks: Tries: Lawless 2, Allan, Garvey Cons: Lawless 2 Pen. Lawless Northern Transvaal Blue Bulls Tries: Wessels, Schutte, Snyman Cons: Steyn 3 Pens: Steyn 2

(at King's Park, Durban)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Auckland	10	9	1	0	401	260	7	45
ACT	10	7	0	3	371	262	8	36
Wellington	10	6	0	4	387	279	9	33
Natal	10	5	2	3	313	308	6	30
Gauteng	10	4	1	5	260	338	5	23
N Transvaal	10	3	3	4	241	307	4	22
Canterbury	10	4	1	5	224	232	3	21
Queensland	10	4	0	6	260	270	4	20
NSW	10	4	0	6	235	262	4	20
Free State	10	4	0	6	266	304	4	20
Waikato	10	4	0	6	254	261	3	19
Otago	10	2	0	8	265	391	5	13

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Knockout stage Pau 27 Castres 20 Dax 22 Biarritz 18 (aet) Montferrand 12 Toulon 6. Agen 27 Grenoble 27 (aet, Agen win on expulsion rule). Begles-Bordeaux 29 Perpignan 25, Toulouse 24 Narbonne 20 Colomiers 36 Brive 31, Bourgoin 23 Beziers 14 Quarter-final draw: Agen v Begles-Bordeaux. Toulouse v Colomiers; Dax v Montferrand, Pau v Bourgoin

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-final: Padova 26 Rovigo 19

CLUB CRICKET

BIRMINGHAM LEAGUE: Stourbridge 130-9 West Bromwich Dartmouth 121-1

FORT STERLING BOLTON LEAGUE: *Astley Bridge 93-8 Little Lever 10-0; Tonge* 177-4 Bradshaw 1-0 Farnworth SC 94-6 Egerton 10-0 Eagley 115-6 Farnworth 4-0 Heaton 129-7 Kearsley 3-1 Walkden 183-3 Horwich 143-5, Westhoughton 187-4 v Greenmount

BOWERS GROUP BRADFORD LEAGUE: Saltaire 83-9 Baildon 14-2 Drighlington 95-8 *Bradford and Bingley 96-3, Brighouse 140* Hanging Heaton 91-9; Windhill 222-4 East Bierley 23-1 Pudsey St Lawrence 16-0 v Spen Victoria

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE LEAGUE: Milnrow 220-3dec Oldham 179-9. Royton 104-7 Radcliffe 107-4, Heywood 168-1 Middleton 129-7 Stockport 92-9 Crompton 93-9 Walsden 190-7dec Rochdale 185-6

MURRAY SMITH & CO CHESHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE: Heaton Mersey 175-4dec Didsbury 65 Bowdon 201-6dec Macclesfield 153 Nantwich 132-7dec Toft 76-7; Poynton 139-6dec Alsager 52-6 Upton 144-8dec Grappenhall 101-9

VAUX DURHAM SENIOR LEAGUE: *Durham CA 24-1 v Boldon* Burnmoor 30-2 v Durham City. Horden 55-6 v Seaham Harbour Philadelphia 43-1 v South Shields, Felling 36-1 v Wearmouth; Whitburn 72-1 v Eppleton

COLOUR ASSEMBLY ESSEX LEAGUE: Fives and Heronians 151-9 Westcliff-on-Sea 127-6: Ilford 179-7 Hadleigh and *Thundersley 153-6 Loughton 175-2 Hainault* and Clayhall 132-9, Gidea Park and Romford 173 Hutton 121-6 Hornchurch-on-the-Hill 153-9 Leigh-on-Sea 112 Colchester and E Essex 180-5 Saffron Walden 77-8, Shenfield 162-9 Wickford 131-5, Stanford-le-Hope 134 Chelmsford 135-5, Orsett and Thurrock 134 Woodford Wells 136-4

BRYAN HERTFORDSHIRE LEAGUE: Potters Bar 123 Letchworth 124-3, Langleybury 108-9 St Albans 166-9, Hoddesdon 129 Sawbridgeworth 130-8 Knebworth Park 149-9 North Mymms 114-6, Hitchin 127 Radlett 128-2; West Herts 241-5 Stevenage 136-6, Berkhamsted 166-8 Cheshunt 157-3, Welwyn Garden City 202-7 Watford *Town* 202-4 Bishop's Stortford 133-8 Barnet 133-7

WOOLWICH KENT LEAGUE: Hythe 135-7 Orpington 136-2, Sidcup 148-8 Hartley 77

EW CARTON LANCASHIRE LEAGUE: Bacup 24-1 v East Lancs. Colne 157-8 Rawtenstall 50-1. Enfield 185-4 v Ramsbottom Haslingden 177-7 Todmorden 9-0: Accrington 98-8 Lowerhouse 13-1, Rishton 96-5 v Nelson

LEES BREWERY LANCASHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE: Irlam 11-2 v Cheetham Hill; Denton 111 Glossop 103. Sale Moor 148 Longsight 132, Prestwich 81 Woodbank 85-3, Roe Green 149 Denton St Law 150-1; Denton West 184-3 Thornham 189-8; Dukinfield 233-7 Woodhouses 149-3

WILLIAM YOUNGER NORTH LANCASHIRE LEAGUE: Dalton 77 Barrow 78-4, Haverigg 47-3 v Carlisle, Furness 8-0 v Carnforth, Lindal 122-8 Penrith 101-7; Workington 32-1 v Vickers Sports

DARLINGTON BUILDING SOCIETY NORTH YORKSHIRE/SOUTH DURHAM LEAGUE: Guisborough 21-2 v Bishop Auckland; Darlington RA 16-0 *v Darlington;* Blackhall 40-2 v Marske, Saltburn 9-1 v Normanby Hall; Norton 20-2 v Hartlepool Stockton 30-0 v Redcar; Middlesbrough 16-0 v Thornaby.

VAUX NORTHERN LEAGUE: Lancaster 11-0 v Blackpool; Darwen 4-2 v Kendal: Leyland Dal 124-3 Preston 79-6. Fleetwood *105-4 v St Anne's.*

PRIORY NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY LEAGUE: South North 93-4 v Alnwick. Backworth 42-4 v Benwell Hill, Benwell 39-0 v Blyth: Tynedale 42-0 v County Club; Percy Main 50-1 v Morpeth, Tynemouth 72-1 v Ashington.

PARKER INTERNATIONAL LTD SADDLEWORTH AND DISTRICT LEAGUE: Austerlands 146 *Friarmere 147-0.* Heyside 232-8 Delph and Dobcross 233-9; East Levenshulme 56 Shaw 61-0. Droylsden 151-6 Hollinwood 115; Uppermill 153-6 Greenfield 152-3; B Fieldhouse 187-7 Micklehurst 189-2; F Field 218-4 Saddleworth 146-7; Stayley 111 Moorside 100

FURROWS SHROPSHIRE LEAGUE: Ludlow 109-2 Newport 105, Perkins 116-5 Bridgnorth 94-7, St George's 165-8 Shifnal *78-6, Shrewsbury 106-7 Wellington 107-9.*

WELSH BREWERS SOUTH WALES ASSOCIATION: Dafen 202-8 Pontarddulais 142: Gowerton 189-9 Briton Ferry Steel 120-5; Ynysygerwn 186-6 Llangennech 120-7: Ammanford 47 Neath 48-1; Swansea 205-7 Ynystawe 71

PETER COOPER VOLKSWAGEN SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Lymington 110 Portsmouth 111-2: New Milton 178 Havant 179-4, South Wilts 95 Winchester KS 96-3.

EVE SURREY CHAMPIONSHIP: Ashford 170-8dec Guildford 105-5. Limpsfield 137-6dec Beddington 63-2 Esher 121-7dec Bank of England 76-8. Mitcham 171-7dec Malden Wanderers 172-3; *Wimbledon 184-1dec* Old Emanuel 88, Reigate Priory 134 Banstead 114-3, Honor Oak 110 Spencer 82-6. Metropolitan Police 166-8dec Sunbury 167-4: Weybridge 182-7dec Sutton 65-5

MORRANT THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE: Basingstoke 193-9 Cove 147-7; Wokingham 151-5 Reading 135-9: Harefield 129 *High Wycombe 119*; Finchampstead 225-5 Maidenhead and B 133, Slough 129 Beaconsfield 104-9; Hayes 172-7 Tring Park 173-4: Hounslow 165-5 Boyne Hill 112-9

VAUX TYNESIDE SENIOR LEAGUE: South Moor 58-0 v Whickham; Annfield *Plain 62-3 v Seaton Burn, Swalwell 37-2 v* Consett, Linz 23-1 v Blaydon, Greenside 30-1 v Sacriston

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE: Doncaster 155 Cleethorpes 61-8, Hull 128-6 Rotherham 54-3: Yorks Academy 2-0 v Appleby Frodingham; Sheffield Coll 104-4 v Scarborough, Sheffield United 67-2 v York.

☐ *Other matches abandoned due to rain*

SCHOOLS SPORT

Cricket

* *Aldenham 217-3dec* Westminster 138, Aldenham 158-7dec * Merchant Taylors', Northwood 156-8. * Culford 201-9dec Norwich 155-8. * Dulwich 53-4 v Tonbridge, * Eltham 80-1 v Emanuel; Emanuel 98 * RGS Guildford 100-1, Kelvinside Academy 80 * Fettes 83; * KCS Wimbledon 171-4dec St John's, Leatherhead 47; Tiffin 116 * Reed's 87; Wellington School (Somerset) 155 * Exeter 157-9, Woodbridge 133 * King's, Ely 137-3 * *denotes home team*

Swimming

CRYSTAL PALACE: Bath Cup: Boys: 4 x 100m freestyle: 1. Campbell College, Belfast 3min 44 56sec (record): 2, Nottingham HS 3 58 20; 3, Royal Belfast Academic *Institute* 4 01 04 The Otter SC medley (4 x 50m) 1. City of London Freeman's 1min 58 64sec 2 Trinity, Croydon 1 59 08; 3 RGS Newcastle 2 01 04 Girls: 4 x 50m freestyle: 1, Berkhamsted Collegiate 2min 01 03sec (record); 2. City of London Freeman's 2:03 97. 3, Alleyn's 2:06 19 4 x 50m medley relay: 1, Berkhamsted *Collegiate 2min 20 09sec (record),* 2. Epsom 2:24 37, 3, Brentwood 2:26 10

Football

ENGLISH SCHOOLS FUJI FILM TROPHY: Final, second leg: Islington and Camden 1 Liverpool 5 (Liverpool win 5-3 on aggregate)

LONDON CRISP SHIELD: Final: Newham 1 Sutton 0.

SURREY CUP: Under-15: Semi-final: Aldershot 3 Croydon 2 Under-14: Semi-*final: Aldershot 0 Croydon 1*

BEXLEY GIRLS SEVEN-A-SIDE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Final: Brampton 0 Danson 0 (trophy shared)

Water polo

PUTNEY: English Schools championships: Under-16: Semi-finals: Trinity, Croydon 16 City of London 4: Queen Elizabeth, Barnet 19 King's, Grantham 3 Third-place play-off: King's, Grantham 20 City of London 5. Final: Queen Elizabeth, Barnet 19 Trinity, Croydon 6 Under-19: Semi-finals: Haberdashers' Aske's, Elstree 20 Torquay GS 7: King's, Grantham 9 Bolton 5. Third-place play-off: Bolton 9 Torquay GS 6. *Final: Haberdashers' Aske's 12 King's,* Grantham 11.

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Human Rights Law Report

Strasbourg

Removal of AIDS drugs courier would breach Convention

D v United Kingdom

(Case No 146/1996/767/964)

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges C. Russo, A. Spielmann, J. De Meyer, Sir John Freeland, A. B. Baka, P. Kūris, U. Lõhmus and J. Casadevall

Registrar H. Petzold

Deputy Registrar P. J. Mahoney

[Judgment May 2]

Removing a convicted drug courier in the advanced stages of AIDS to his country of origin, St Kitts, would expose him to inhuman or degrading treatment in breach of article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The applicant, D, was born in St Kitts and appeared to have lived there most of his life. He arrived at Gatwick Airport, London, on January 21, 1993.

He was refused leave to enter and issued with a removal order, having been found on arrival to be in possession of a substantial quantity of cocaine with a street value of about £120,000.

However, rather than being removed he was arrested and charged with illegally importing a controlled drug into the United Kingdom. He was convicted by a London court in April 1993 and sentenced to six years imprisonment.

In August 1994 the applicant was diagnosed while in prison as HIV positive and suffering from AIDS. The infection appeared to have been contracted some time before his arrival in the United Kingdom.

He began to receive treatment for the illness. His condition had gradually deteriorated and he was in the advanced stages of the disease.

A medical report dated June 13, 1996 indicated that his prognosis was very poor and that his life expectancy was limited to eight to twelve months on present treatment.

On January 20, 1996, a few days before his release on licence, the immigration authorities ordered his removal to St Kitts. On February 2, the applicant applied unsuccessfully to the High Court for judicial review of the Chief Immigration Officer's refusal to allow him to remain in the United Kingdom on compassionate grounds.

On February 15, the Court of Appeal dismissed his renewed application for leave to apply for judicial review of the decision on the ground that the immigration authorities had properly treated his request as an application for leave to enter.

As such, they were not required to take into account the official policy guidelines on AIDS sufferers, which only concerned the taking of decisions or applications to remain in the United Kingdom.

The applicant was currently living in special sheltered accommodation for AIDS patients provided by a UK charity and continued to receive medical treatment for his condition.

Shortly before the hearing before the Court of Human Rights on February 20, 1997 he had to be transferred to a hospital and his condition was reported to be giving rise to concern.

It was not disputed that his already shortened life expectancy would be further reduced on account of the lack of medical treatment and facilities for dealing with his condition in St Kitts. The applicant appeared to have no close family members there, no means of support and no accommodation.

The application to the European Commission of Human Rights, which was lodged on February 15, 1996, was declared admissible on June 26, 1996.

Article 3 of the Convention provides: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

In its report of October 15, 1996 the Commission expressed the view, by 11 votes to 7, that there would be a violation of article 3 if the applicant were to be removed to St Kitts; unanimously, that it was unnecessary to examine the complaint under article 2 (right to life); unanimously, that no separate issue arose under article 8 (right to respect for private life); and by 13 votes to 5, that there had been no violation of article 13 (right to an effective remedy).

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

I Alleged violation of article 3

The Court recalled at the outset that contracting states had the right, as a matter of well established international law and subject to their treaty obligations, including the Human Rights Convention, to control the entry, residence and expulsion of aliens.

It also noted the gravity of the offence which was committed by the applicant and was acutely aware of the problems confronting contracting states in their efforts to combat the harm caused to their societies through the supply of drugs from abroad.

The administration of severe sanctions to persons involved in drug trafficking, including expulsion of alien drug couriers like the applicant, was a justified response to that scourge.

However, in exercising their right to expel such aliens contracting states had to have regard to article 3 of the Convention which enshrined one of the fundamental values of democratic societies.

It was precisely for that reason that the Court had repeatedly stressed in its line of authorities involving extradition, expulsion or deportation of individuals to third countries that article 3 prohibited in absolute terms torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and that its guarantees applied irrespective of the reprehensible nature of the conduct of the person in question: see, most recently, *Ahmed v Austria* December 17, 1996 (Reports of Judgments and Decisions 1996, paragraph 38); *Chahal v United Kingdom* (*The Times* November 28, 1996; Reports of Judgments and Decisions 1996, paragraphs 73 to 74).

While contracting states might justifiably administer severe sentences to drug traffickers, including the expulsion of alien drug couriers like the applicant, the absolute nature of the prohibition contained in article 3 nevertheless had to be respected when a state had recourse to expulsion.

Applying its established case law to the facts, the Court noted that the guarantees contained in article 3 applied irrespective of the gravity of the offence which the applicant had committed and as he had been within the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom since January 21, 1993 the authorities had to secure to him those guarantees regardless of whether he had ever entered the country in the technical sense.

The court noted that that principle had so far been applied in contexts in which the risk to the individual of being subjected to any of the forms of treatment proscribed by article 3 emanated from intentionally inflicted acts of the public authorities in the receiving country or from those of non-state bodies in that country when the authorities there were unable to afford him appropriate protection.

However, given the fundamental importance of article 3 in the Convention system, the Court had to reserve to itself sufficient flexibility to address the application of that article in other contexts which might arise.

It could not therefore be prevented from scrutinising an applicant's claim under article 3 where the source of the risk of proscribed treatment in the receiving country lay in factors which could not engage either directly or indirectly the responsibility of the public authorities of that country, or which, taken alone, did not in themselves infringe the standards of that article.

To limit the application of article 3 in that manner would be to undermine the absolute character of its protection. However, in any such contexts the Court had to subject all the circumstances surrounding the case to a rigorous scrutiny, especially the applicant's personal situation in the expelling state.

Against that background the Court considered whether in view of the applicant's current medical condition and the situation which awaited him in St Kitts, there would be a real risk that his removal to that country would breach the standards of article 3.

In that respect the Court noted that the applicant's condition was deteriorating and he had reached a critical stage in his fatal illness. The limited quality of life he now enjoyed resulted from the sophisticated treatment and medication which he received in the United Kingdom and the palliative care administered by a charitable organisation.

The authorities had assumed responsibility for treating his condition since August 1994 and he confronted death in a familiar and compassionate environment. The abrupt withdrawal of the current facilities through removing him to St Kitts would entail the most dramatic consequences for him.

Any medical treatment which he might hope to receive in St Kitts could not contend with the infections which he might possibly contract on account of his lack of shelter and of a proper diet as well as exposure to the health and sanitation problems in the country.

There was no evidence to suggest that any family he might possibly have in St Kitts would be able or willing to attend to his needs or that he would be guaranteed a bed in either of the hospitals which reportedly cared for AIDS patients.

The Court stressed that the conditions which confronted D in St Kitts did not in themselves breach the standards of article 3. However, for the reasons stated, his removal to that country would expose him to a real risk of dying in the most distressing circumstances and thus to inhuman treatment contrary to article 3.

In reaching that conclusion, the court emphasised that aliens who had served their prison sentences and were subject to expulsion could not in principle claim any entitlement to remain on the territory of a contracting state in order to continue to benefit from medical, social or other forms of assistance provided by the expelling state during their stay in prison.

However, given that the present case turned on very exceptional circumstances and involved compelling humanitarian considerations, the Court concluded that the implementation of the decision to remove the applicant would amount to inhuman treatment by the respondent state in violation of article 3.

II Alleged violation of article 2

Having regard to its finding that the removal of the applicant to St Kitts would give rise to a violation of article 3, the court considered that it was not necessary to examine his complaint under article 2, which guaranteed the right to life.

III Alleged violation of article 8

Having regard to its finding under article 3, the Court concluded that the applicant's complaint with regard to the right to respect for private life as guaranteed by article 8 raised no separate issue.

IV Alleged violation of article 13

The Court recalled that in certain previous cases against the United Kingdom it had considered judicial review proceedings to be an effective remedy in relation to complaints raised under article 3 in the contexts of deportation and extradition: see *Vilvarajah and Others v United Kingdom* (*The Times* November 12, 1991; Series A No 215, p39, paragraph 123) and *Soering v United Kingdom* (*The Times* July 8, 1989; Series A No 161 pp47-48, paragraphs 121-124).

It had acknowledged, inter alia, that a court in the exercise of its powers of judicial review would have power to quash a decision to expel or deport an individual to a country where it was established that there was a serious risk of inhuman or degrading treatment, on the ground that in all the circumstances the decision was one that no reasonable secretary of state could take.

The Court considered that there was no reason in the case before it to depart from that conclusion. It noted in that respect that the Court of Appeal had had regard to domestic case law which required it to submit the applicant's plight to the most anxious scrutiny on account of the established risk to his life expectancy.

The substance of the applicant's complaint had been examined by the Court of Appeal which had the power to afford him the relief he sought. The fact that it did not do so was not a material consideration since the effectiveness of a remedy for the purposes of article 13 did not depend on the certainty of a favourable outcome for an applicant: see *Vilvarajah* (at p39 paragraph 122).

The applicant maintained that the effectiveness of the remedy invoked first before the High Court and subsequently before the Court of Appeal was undermined on account of their failure to conduct an independent scrutiny of the facts in order to determine whether they disclosed a real risk that he would be exposed to inhuman and degrading treatment. He relied on *Chahal* (at paragraph 151).

However, the Court noted that in that case the domestic courts were precluded from reviewing the factual basis underlying the national security considerations invoked by the Home Secretary to justify the expulsion of Mr Chahal. No such considerations arose in the present case.

The Court therefore concluded that the applicant had had available to him an effective remedy in relation to his complaints under articles 2, 3 and 8 of the Convention and there was accordingly no breach of article 13.

V Application of article 50

The applicant did not claim compensation.

Making an assessment on an equitable basis, the Court awarded the applicant £35,000 by way of costs and expenses plus any value-added tax that might be chargeable less the amount paid in legal aid by the Council of Europe.

Court of Appeal

Law Report May 12 1997

Court of Appeal

Doctrine of mutual wills

Goodchild and Another v Goodchild

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Phillips

[Judgment May 2]

The doctrine of mutual wills required a clear contract between the two testators that the wills would not be revoked and would remain unaltered. There was no reason to import into that doctrine the lesser requirements applicable to the creation of secret and constructive trusts.

Where the evidence showed a failure to make a clear agreement for mutual wills, but the first testator's understanding of the effect of her will was such as to impose on the second testator, free as he was of any legal obligation, a moral obligation to give effect to what the first testator believed they mutually intended, namely to leave their estates to their son, the court could award financial provision for the son's maintenance under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing the appeal of the defendant, Enid June Goodchild, and the cross-appeal of the plaintiffs, Gary Jack Goodchild and Margot Alison Goodchild, from Mr Justice Carnwath (*The Times* December 22, 1995; [1996] 1 WLR 694) who had held in a claim for financial provision from the estate of Dennis Goodchild, inter alia, that identical wills of Dennis and Joan Goodchild, executed in 1988, were not mutual wills binding on Dennis after Joan's death, but the circumstances of the case justified a claim by the first plaintiff, their son, on his father's estate under the 1975 Act.

Dennis married the defendant after Joan's death in 1991 but died a little over four months later.

Mr J. H. G. Sunnucks for the defendant; Mr Jeremy Gordon for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that the judge had held that the identical wills of Joan and Dennis were not mutual wills as there was no clear agreement that they were to be mutually binding.

He had nevertheless allowed a claim by their son, Gary, on Dennis's estate under section 2 of the 1975 Act on the basis that Joan's mistaken belief that the terms of the wills were mutually binding imposed a moral obligation on Dennis which was a special circumstance exceptional enough to justify the claim.

The plaintiffs' case was that it was sufficient to show a common understanding between the testators at the time the wills were executed; Mr Gordon drew an analogy with secret trusts where equity would not permit property transferred to another on the faith of such understanding to be dealt with differently from that understanding: see *In re Cleaver, dec'd* ([1981] 1 WLR 939, 947) and *Ottaway v Norman* ([1972] Ch 698, 711).

Furthermore, the taking of benefit on the strength of a binding agreement sufficed to create a constructive trust: see *In re Dale, dec'd* ([1994] Ch 31) and the cases cited there.

His Lordship said that those submissions foundered at the same point; as was put in argument by Lord Justice Morritt, the reason why if mutual wills were to take effect an agreement was necessary, was that without it the property of the second testator was not bound, whereas a secret trust concerned only the property of a person in the position of the first testator.

For the doctrine to apply there had to be a contract at law: see *Dale* (at p38) and the cases cited there. In *Cleaver* there was specific evidence as to the testators' mutual intentions at the time the wills were made, not so in the present case.

Even if a binding agreement were not required, it would still be necessary to prove that both testators intended not merely that Gary should be the ultimate beneficiary but that the survivor should not prevent that happening if he or she thought fit.

There was no presumption that a present plan would be immutable in future. A key feature of the concept of mutual wills was the irrevocability of the mutual intentions.

Not only had they to be binding when made, but the testators had to have undertaken, and so had to be bound, not to change their intentions after the death of the first testator.

Although when Dennis and Joan executed their wills they wanted Gary to inherit the combined estates, there was no express agreement not to revoke the wills; nor could any such agreement be implied from the fact the survivor was in a position to leave both estates to Gary.

What was required was a mutual intention that both wills should remain unaltered and that the survivor should be bound to leave the combined estates to the son.

The judge was entitled from the evidence to decline to infer any agreement between Dennis and Joan that would prevent the survivor of them from interfering with the succession.

As regards the claim under the 1975 Act, Mr Sunnucks contended, inter alia, no provision should have been made for Gary as he was capable of earning his own living; that there was no special circumstances in the case to justify any moral claim and that the judge below showed confusion between the principles of family provision and those relating to mutual wills. He relied on *In re Coventry, dec'd* ([1980] Ch 461).

His Lordship disagreed. The principles by which the court proceeded were clear. There was in the present case the plainest possible basis for concluding that, whereas Dennis and Joan had not made a clear agreement for mutual wills, none the less Joan's understanding of the effect of her will was such as to impose on Dennis a moral obligation, once Gary's need for reasonable financial provision was established.

The judge concluded Gary was barely able to meet his financial requirements. The appraisal of all the circumstances was for the judge.

He had properly directed himself and was not shown to have erred in principle or even to have reached a conclusion that was surprising or untoward. The judgment was not only sensible: it was unimpeachable.

Lord Justice Morritt gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Phillips agreed.

Solicitors: Porter Dodson, Yeovil; Poole & Co, Yeovil.

Whether act is wilful misconduct

Laceys Footwear Ltd v Bowler and Another

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment April 18]

Whether in any given circumstances the acts or omissions of a person entrusted with the goods or property of another amounted to wilful misconduct had to begin with an inquiry about the conduct ordinarily to be expected in the particular circumstances and by then asking whether the acts or omissions of the person whose behaviour was called in question was so far outside the range of such conduct that it could properly be regarded as "misconduct".

An important circumstance in any case would be a deliberate disregard of express instructions clearly given and understood.

Further, a person could be said to act with reckless carelessness towards goods in his care if, aware of a risk that they might be lost or damaged, he nevertheless went deliberately ahead and took the risk when it was unreasonable in all the circumstances for him to do so.

The Court of Appeal so stated in dismissing an appeal by Bowler International Freight Ltd from an order of Judge Thompson, QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, on April 7, 1995, save as to reducing the damages and costs awarded to the plaintiffs, Laceys Footwear Ltd, from £69,493.30 to £63,301.79.

Mr Jeremy Carey for the plaintiffs; Mr Stephen Tomlinson, QC, for the defendants

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that on October 30, 1992, a consignment of 269 cartons of shoes was driven from Alicante, Spain by a Spanish driver who reported to an office in Slough where he was told to deliver them only to the plaintiffs' premises in Hackney Road, east London.

Despite his instructions he was persuaded by two men he spoke to on reaching that road, on the ground that his vehicle was said to be too large to enter the premises, to drive to an industrial estate and off-load the shoes into an unmarked vehicle, and to give them the papers relating to the consignment.

After the vehicle had been reported stolen the defendants admitted that they had not effected insurance of the consignment in accordance with the express instructions they had been given by the plaintiffs. The judge found that the plaintiffs had proved wilful misconduct.

Lord Justice Savill agreed.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE, while not agreeing that, on the evidence, the charge of wilful misconduct was made out, considered that the defendants should not escape liability by the application of a clause in their standard conditions of contract which would have avoided liability for their total failure to insure.

Solicitors: MacLeish Littlestone Cowan & Kemp, Leytonstone; Holmes Hardingham Walser Johnston Winter.

Legal expenses tax deductible

McKnight (Inspector of Taxes) v Sheppard

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment May 7]

Legal expenses incurred by a stockbroker on defending disciplinary proceedings against him for alleged breaches of the Stock Exchange rules and regulations were deductible in computing the amount of his profits chargeable to income tax under Case I of Schedule D. The finding of fact that his sole conscious motive in making the substantial expenditure was to avoid destroying his stockbroking business justified the conclusion that it was laid out wholly and exclusively for the purposes of his trade within section 130(a) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

The fact that the expenditure had inevitably to involve his personal reputation did not require making the inference of a dual purpose for incurring the expenditure, only one of which was for the purposes of his trade.

The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments so held allowing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Brian S. Sheppard, from the decision of Mr Justice Lightman (*The Times* May 21, 1996; [1996] STC 627) that had reversed the determination of a special commissioner (Mr Theodore Wallace) that legal costs exceeding £200,000 had been incurred by the taxpayer wholly and exclusively for his trade.

The taxpayer, sole proprietor of a stockbroking firm, incurred the legal expenses in defending himself, in part successfully and thereby avoiding suspension from trading, against allegations of misconduct and gross misconduct at disciplinary hearings by the Stock Exchange Council and the disciplinary appeals committee in 1987. The tax inspector had refused to allow the taxpayer's claim to deduct the expenditure on the ground, inter alia, that it was made for non-trading purposes.

Mr David Goldberg, QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Hugh McKay for the taxpayer; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the appeal gave the court an occasion for reminding itself of its limited function on hearing appeals by way of case stated from decisions of special or general commissioners of income tax: see *Edwards v Bairstow* ([1956] AC 14). The issue was a short one.

The commissioner concluded that suspension or expulsion would have destroyed the taxpayer's business, that it was for that reason that he had incurred the costs and that his personal reputation was not a factor.

It seemed clear from his decision that the commissioner had been engaged in the familiar exercise of determining whether, in incurring the expenditure, the taxpayer had had a dual or a single purpose. In other words was it both the avoidance of the destruction of his business and the preservation of his personal reputation as an individual or was it solely the former, the latter being merely an incidental benefit?

The commissioner had directed himself:

First, by reference to *Morgan v Tate & Lyle Ltd* ([1955] AC 21) for the proposition that expenditure on preventing a person from being disabled from carrying on and earning profits in his trade was in principle deductible;

Second, by reference to *Mallalieu v Drummond* ([1983] 2 AC 861) and *MacKinlay v Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co* ([1990] 2 AC 239) for the general approach to section 130(a) of the 1970 Act; and

Third, in further reference to the exclusivity of purpose test, he had considered a number of cases concerning the deductibility of legal expenses, including *Spofforth & Prince v Golder* ([1945] 1 All 352) and *Golder v Great Boulder Proprietary Gold Mines Ltd* ([1952] 1 All ER 360).

Although the commissioner did not accept that the taxpayer was wholly unconcerned with his personal reputation, he accepted his evidence as to his conscious motive in incurring the expenditure, that is, that it was solely to avoid the destruction of his business.

The commissioner's determination was to be commended both for its full and careful statement of the facts and the evidence as to purpose and for its application of the correct legal principles to the facts found.

As to those facts, it might be exceptional, perhaps extremely rare, for someone placed in the taxpayer's position to be so indifferent to his personal reputation that its preservation was not one of the purposes of the expenditure.

Nevertheless, that was the finding of the tribunal of fact, the commissioner. Moreover, he was correct in saying that it was not inescapable that one purpose of the expenditure was the preservation of the taxpayer's personal reputation. The human species had not yet been reduced to a uniformity incapable of such insouciance. He was entitled to distinguish *Mallalieu v Drummond*.

The basis of the judge's decision was that to be deductible, the expenditure had not only to be wholly and exclusively incurred for the purposes of the trade, he had held that that test was satisfied, but also sufficiently connected with the carrying on and earning of profits in the trade.

He had held that that connection did not exist where the expenditure was incurred in a course of conduct outside the ordinary course of the trade; that legal expenses incurred in defending a trader against successful disciplinary proceedings involving serious breaches of the rules were incurred outside the ordinary course of the trade and that here the taxpayer had been found guilty of serious and deliberate departures from the Stock Exchange Rules and the ordinary, proper and lawful conduct of his trade.

While understanding the grave view the judge took of the taxpayer's conduct, the basis of his decision could not stand.

The commissioner had not been asked to determine, and had not determined, whether contrary to the treatment accorded them in the accounts of the taxpayer's firm, the legal expenses were incurred outside the ordinary course of the trade. Neither the evidence nor the parties' submissions were directed to that question.

Moreover, on an appeal by way of case stated a party was no more entitled to take a new point whose decision might be affected by evidence which could have been, but was not, adduced before the tribunal of fact, than on any other appeal.

Even if the judge's approach was correct, the taxpayer's exoneration on six of the charges would appear to have required some apportionment of the legal expenses between those which were deductible and those which were not. None of those questions had been considered by the commissioner and the judge had no materials on which he could decide them for himself.

Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Dunderdale Wignall, Manchester; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ALLEN, FRANK ALLEN late of Kilburn, London NW6 died at Hampstead, London NW3 on 11 February 1995
(Estate about £5,000)
BANNARD otherwise GARDNER-BANNARD, HELEN LILIAN GARDNER BANNARD otherwise HELEN LILIAN GARDNER-BANNARD SPINSTER late of West Banbury, Oxfordshire died there on 24 November 1996
(Estate about £15,000)
BROWN nee FOULSTON, SHEILA ROSE BROWN otherwise SHEILA BROWN nee FOULSTON WIDOW late of Birmingham died there on 8 July 1996
(Estate about £80,000)
DOVE, MICHAEL DOVE late of Mayfair, London W1 died at Paddington, London W2 on 5 December 1996
(Estate about £8,000)
EDWINS nee REED, ADA AGNES EDWINS nee REED WIDOW late of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire died there on 12 April 1995
(Estate about £9,700)
FOLLETT, MARY FOLLETT SPINSTER late of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died there on 28 December 1995
(Estate about £10,000)
GAYTON formerly PHILLIPS nee LANE, EMILY ROSE GAYTON formerly PHILLIPS nee LANE WIDOW late of Battersea, London SW11 died there on 21 May 1996
(Estate about £15,600)
GEE, MARJORIE BEATRICE GEE SPINSTER late of Hoole, Cheshire died at Chester on 28 September 1996
(Estate about £80,000)
HARLOW, THOMAS HARLOW late of East Dulwich, London SE22 died there on 14 December 1995
(Estate about £60,000)
HATFIELD, GERTRUDE ELIZABETH HATFIELD otherwise BESSIE GERTRUDE HATFIELD SPINSTER late of Greenford, Middlesex died Southall, Middlesex on 19 November 1996
(Estate about £6,400)
HUNT, JOYCE EVELYN HUNT otherwise JOYCE HUNT SPINSTER late of Stratford, London E15 died at Plaistow, London E13 on 27 May 1996
(Estate about £12,000)
KENNEDY, GORDON KENNEDY late of Wallsend, Tyne and Wear died there on 16 September 1995
(Estate about £24,000)
LANGRIDGE formerly SHRIMPTON nee MARSH, DORIS LANGRIDGE formerly SHRIMPTON nee MARSH WIDOW late of Guildford, Surrey died at Farnham, Surrey on 30 July 1996
(Estate about £5,500)
LENG, DOROTHY MARY LENG SPINSTER late of Doncaster, South Yorkshire died at Scunthorpe, Humberside on 27 July 1996
(Estate about £35,000)
MOYNIHAN, MICHAEL MOYNIHAN late of Romford, Essex died there on 10 March 1996
(Estate about £4,000)
MUNDEY otherwise TREMAYNE, ARTHUR GEORGE MUNDEY otherwise ARTHUR GEORGE TREMAYNE late of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk died there on 2nd February 1997
(Estate about £13,000)
STACEY, JACK SHARMAN STACEY late of Roehampton, London SW15 died there on 4 January 1995
(Estate about £13,000)
TURNER, JAMES TERRISS TURNER otherwise JAMES TERRIS TURNER late of Ladywood, Birmingham died there on 7 September 1996
(Estate about £17,000)
VERNON, KATHLEEN VERNON SPINSTER late of Hayes, Middlesex died there on 31 December 1994
(Estate about £6,000)
VICKERY, MABEL EVELYN VICKERY SPINSTER late of Lee, London SE12 died there on 7 January 1997
(Estate about £40,000)
WASHINGTON, DORIS ETHEL WASHINGTON SPINSTER late of Fulham, London SW6 died there on 13 February 1997
(Estate about £9,000)
WEIGANG, WOLFGANG HEINZ WEIGANG otherwise WOLFGANG HEINZ RAYMOND WEIGANG otherwise RAYMOND WEIGANG late of Watford, Hertfordshire died there on 13 May 1996
(Estate about £60,000)
WILKINSON, ALICE WILKINSON SPINSTER late of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire died there on 30 May 1995
(Estate about £3,000)
WILLIS, GEORGE WILLIS late of Hammersmith, London W6 died THERE on 10 August 1996
(Estate about £45,000)
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

LEGAL NOTICES

CENTURY LEASING (UK) LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1906222
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the liquidator of the above company intends to make a distribution to the creditors within four months of Friday 20 June 1997. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the liquidator, Peter Joseph Beirne at KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 20 June 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The full details *of claims, referred to above,* must include the creditor's name and address, the amount of the claim and particulars of how and when the debt was incurred by the company.
Notice is also given that the intended distribution is a final distribution and will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds remaining in the liquidator's hands following the final distribution to creditors shall be distributed to the shareholders absolutely.
Note: The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Dated: 30 April 1997
Peter Joseph Beirne - Liquidator

NOTICE OF MEETING IN ADMINISTRATION PROCEEDINGS
CARE CONNECT (DAVENHAM HALL) HOME CARE SERVICES
In Administration

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of Creditors in the above matter is to be held at *St. James* Club, Charlotte Street, Manchester on 23rd May 1997 at 12.00, to consider my proposals under Section 23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a committee of creditors. *Proxies should* be completed and returned to me by the date of the meeting if you cannot attend the meeting and wish to be represented. In order to be entitled to vote at the meeting you must give to me, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details *in writing of your claim*.
J.J. Gleave, Administrator

F & J ESTATES LIMITED
Insolvency Act and Rules 1986
In accordance with *Rule 4.106*, I, Andrew Mark Kaye of Leigh Carr, 27/31 Blandford Street, London, W1I 3AD, give notice that on 7 May 1997 I was appointed Liquidator by resolutions of members. Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntary wound up, are required, on or before the 30 June 1997 to send in their full christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Andrew Mark Kaye of 27/31 Blandford Street, London, *W1H 3AD, the Liquidator of the* said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts *or claims* at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default threfore they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution. Note. This notice is purely formal. All creditors have been or will be paid in full.
Dated: 7 May 1997

NOTICE OF MEETING IN ADMINISTRATION PROCEEDINGS
DAVENHAM HALL NURSING HOME
In Administration

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a *Meeting of Creditors in the above* matter is to be held at St. James Club, Charlotte Street, Manchester on 23rd May 1997 at 10.30, to consider my proposals under Section 23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a committee of creditors. Proxies should be completed and returned *to me by the date of the* meeting if you cannot attend the meeting and wish to be represented. In order to be entitled to vote at the meeting you must give to me, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed *for* the meeting, details in writing of your claim.
J.J. Gleave, Administrator

The Insolvency Act 1986
CANADIA LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 30th *April 1997*.
M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator

In the Matter of Firefighters Catalogue Limited
And in the Matter of the Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Bryce L Findlay BSc CA MIPA MSPI of Hughes Walker Associates, *50 Darnley Street*, Pollokshields, Glasgow, G41 2SE, give notice that on 25 March 1997 I was appointed Liquidator of Firefighters Catalogue Limited by resolutions of members and creditors.
Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 31 July 1997 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and *descriptions*, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (*if any*), to the undersigned Bryce L Findlay BSc CA *MIPA MSPI of 50 Darnley Street*, Pollokshields, Glasgow, G41 2SE, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Dated: 29 April 1997
Bryce L Findlay BSc CA MIPA MSPI
Liquidator

100% PROOF LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986

In accordance with *Rule 4.106 of* the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, K D Goodman, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 1st May 1997. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address. All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated this 1st May 1997
K D GOODMAN, FCA, Liquidator.

مكنز من الاصل

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,452.10	Allied Domecq	428½	+ 3½	6.9	12.9
282.50	Bulmer (HP)	535	− 6½	3.2	15.9
34.70	Burn Stewart	58½	− 1½	7.3	14.6
125.80	Glenmorangie A	925	+ 10	1.7	25.2
10,845.90	Grand Met	515	+ 1½	3.9	16.6
9,756.70	Guinness	516½	+ 9	3.9	14.7
493.20	Highland Distill	325	+ 3	3.2	15.2
230.90	Matthew Clark	270	− 6½	11.1	12.9
9.86	Marydon W	90½		6.4	12.2
5,387.20	SA Breweries	1828½	+ 12½	1.9	..

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
13,322.50	ABN-AMRO	4333½	+ 84¾	2.7	17.9
12,855.00	Abbey Natl	913	+ 75	3.6	16.2
3,643.30	Alliance & Leic	626	+ 52	3.3	15.4
2,974.30	Allied Irish	442	− 10½	4.0	
6,070.40	Aus New Z	407¼	+ 9½	4.6	
29,678.20	Bank America	7031¼	− 106¼		
4,961.80	Bank Scotland	414½	+ 43½	2.5	12.9
19,050.50	Barclays	1255	+ 110	3.1	12.7
3,162.10	Bk of Ireland	657½	− 4½	3.2	14.9
34,392.10	Citicorp	7100	+ 150		
6,992.00	Commerzbk	1731¼	+ 50	2.5	
23,258.10	Dai Ichi Kan Y	731¼	+ 46¼	0.6	
16,871.40	Deutsche Bk	3371¼	+ 84¾	1.9	
404.60	Espirito Santo	1021¼		3.3	
21,537.10	Fuji Bank Y	743½	+ 23	0.6	
16,197.40	HSBC	1857½	+ 174	2.8	16.1
32,130.30	HSBC HK	1787	+ 170½	2.9	15.5
503.90	Irish Perm	586	+ 6	2.8	
33,289.80	Lloyds TSB	620½	+ 64½	2.7	20.1
13,044.80	Nat Aust Bk	872	+ 14	4.8	11.6
13,747.40	Nat West	803	+ 75½	4.5	12.1
5,211.10	Ryl Bk Scot	635½	+ 53½	3.9	13.6
10,032.90	Stand Chart	1016½	+ 88	1.8	18.2
16,061.10	Wells Fargo	£164¼		1.9	
6,353.30	Westpac	356¼	+ 15	4.4	

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
7,230.90	Bass	815	− 2	3.8	16.1
17.60	Brk for the Bdr A	53½		4.1	14.7
35.70	Burtonwd Brw	171½	− 3	4.1	15.4
254.30	City Centre Rest	131	− 1	2.4	21.8
2,148.70	Compass Gp	670	− 3½	1.6	26.5
59.50	Eldridge P A	280½		2.4	17.2
64.20	Fuller Sm A	465		2.5	15.5
1,492.30	Greenalls Gp	505	+ 4	3.8	15.9
406.90	Greene King	672½		3.0	16.6
28.40	Grosvenor Inns	200	− 5½	3.8	19.3
48.60	Groupe Chez Gerr	280	+ 13	1.4	25.5
56.90	Hardy Hansn	394½		4.7	12.9
82.70	Hall J	2850	+ 12½	2.6	
52.50	Inn Business	88¼	+ 1½	2.9	
229.50	Mansfield	352½	+ 2½	2.2	16.2
252.90	Marston Thmp	279½	− 2½	3.4	10.4
172.80	Morland	535	− 2½	3.0	14.1
60.60	Old Eng Pub	256½	+ 9	0.7	
4.17	Paramount	35	− 1½		
433.30	PizzaExpress	658½	− 6	0.5	43.0
36.00	Ramsdens (H)	387½	− 2½	1.6	36.6
291.10	Regent Inns	327½	+ 7	1.0	31.3
4,269.60	Scot & New	692	+ 17	3.6	21.0
380.00	Vaux Group	358	− ½	4.9	12.8
256.70	Wetherspoon JD	1174	+ 9	1.0	28.2

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,700.10	Electrocomponts	389	+ 3½	2.2	24.2
82.30	Eurolis Elec	140		4.4	20.0
46.50	European Mtr	86½	− 5	7.7	8.8
75.40	Evans Halshaw	235	+ 1	8.8	
6.59	Fife Indmrt	42½	+ 1	9.7	8.5
273.40	Finelist Gp	340½	+ 1½	2.4	17.6
30.00	Gardiner	27½	− ½	4.3	10.6
20.28	Glenchewton	67	+ 3	2.5	13.1
9.48	Greenegst	106½		3.5	24.2
24.50	HR Owen	15	+ ½	5.5	13.6
28.00	Hamlett	98½		7.9	8.9
26.00	Harris (Philip)	242½		4.5	14.8
191.90	Headlam	313½	− 1½	2.3	
5.90	Holders Tech	147½		5.5	13.5
96.10	ISA Intl	235	+ 2	1.5	19.0
1,623.70	Inchcape	307	+ 20½	4.3	18.6
6.75	Jacks (Wm)	62½		4.6	
433.30	Kwik-Fit	245½	+ 4	2.9	17.6
409.10	Lex Service	359½	+ 8	5.6	11.9
34.40	Lookers	103	− 1½	8.7	6.9
66.00	Middlesex	8¼	− ½	1.2	12.6
15.90	[illegible]	30½	+ ½	2.0	
23.30	Norton	222	− 5½	4.5	8.2
52.50	Northumbn	154	− 5½	1.1	8.2
240.40	Partco	332½	+ 15	3.0	17.4
140.30	[illegible]	352½		3.4	16.7
50.30	Perry Gp	196½	− 7½	5.9	9.0
1,272.40	Premier Farnell	468½	+ 1	3.2	17.3
31.10	Quicks Group	134	+ ½	6.5	9.1
29.70	REA	336	+ 1	1.6	39.7
3.54	Reece	2			23.3
16.80	Ronson	18½	− 1½	10.1	6.4
4.80	Ross Gp	3½			
27.00	Ryland	95	− ½	5.3	17.0
23.40	SEP Indl	26	− 1½	8.4	7.0
14.80	Saltire	57	− 4½	2.7	
215.40	Time Products	397½	+ 11½	3.5	16.3
34.30	UMECO	298		2.8	21.4
90.10	United Carriers Gp	79½	+ 4		16.4
184.80	Vardy (Reg)	326½	− 2	2.6	14.4
92.70	WF Elect	635		2.6	23.0
32.30	Wilshaw	34½	+ 2½	3.1	10.2
97.60	Wyko	140½	− 4½	2.4	16.4
33.40	Young (H)	150½		3.5	13.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
616.10	Antofagasta	392	+ 2	1.7	
230.40	Ascot Hldgs	285½		3.3	
17,192.70	Broken Hill	885¼	− 9½	2.8	19.6
8,277.60	BTR	239½	− 30½	5.2	9.9
16,658.30	BAT	536½	+ 15	6.1	11.5
294.60	Bibby (J)	188½		5.0	11.0
1,501.70	Brierley Inv	58½	+ 1	8.4	9.2
790.40	Charter	825	− 12½	4.5	11.8
1,524.30	Cookson	222	+ ½	4.8	13.9
25.90	Cosalt	210½	− 2	8.2	8.9
252.70	DCC	312½	− 1½	2.8	12.4
153.60	Grampian Hlg	137½	+ 5	5.7	
799.30	Harrisons Crsfld	112	− 9	10.6	10.1
18,265.50	Hutch Whamp	505	+ 32½	2.0	20.8
2,128.30	Imperial Tobacco	408½	+ 7	6.1	8.2
2,950.70	Jardine Matt	410½	+ 60¼	3.8	
1,060.00	Lonrho	134½	− 2	4.4	12.2
97.70	McLeod Russel	156½	− 2	5.4	12.7
378.80	Powell Duffryn	438½	+ 2	7.1	17.3
33.90	Raine	145		3.0	
196.40	Stanley	189	− 6	6.8	12.1
4,907.60	Swire Pacific	505½	+ 22	2.6	18.5
583.20	TT Group	354½	− 3	2.7	15.6
3,250.40	Tomkins	272	+ 3½	4.7	13.5
32.60	Undare	167½		10.6	7.9

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
73.20	Simon Eng	46½	+ 1		
79.70	Sir Hendred	142½		4.2	2.8
2,347.00	Smiths Inds	769½	+ 3	2.7	18.7
547.00	Spirax-Sarco	681¼	− 12	2.7	18.2
79.80	Sterling Ind	262½	− 4	4.2	13.2
2,649.70	TI	555½	+ 11	3.3	18.5
17.40	Tinsley (E)	108½		8.9	11.0
179.20	Transtec	107½	+ 1	2.8	
112.20	Triplex Lloyd	170½		5.1	9.6
61.80	Unicorn Ind	162½		4.9	9.6
32.90	Utd Inds	77½		4.2	20.8
719.50	Vickers	213½	− 2½	4.2	12.7
10.90	Villers Grp	9¼			
308.90	Vitec	635½	− 1	2.4	11.4
288.90	Vosper Thorny	827½	− 35	3.7	13.8
145.80	Wagon Ind	272½	− 7½	9.1	8.4
502.50	Weir	249	+ 6½	4.0	14.3
54.90	Wellington Hldg	232½		4.4	13.7
38.00	Wellman	36	− ½	8.7	5.7
17.50	Wescott	56	+ 6½	2.5	18.6
160.70	Whatman	684	+ 13	2.5	20.0
3.69	Widney	30½	− 9	14.3	9.2

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
103.80	Adwest	125		7.8	17.6
16.60	Airflow Stream	195		5.1	8.4
187.70	Avon Rubber	695	− 5	3.6	14.3
307.50	BSG	104		4.3	13.9
47.50	Bostrom	261	+ 6½	3.1	11.6
10.90	Boustead	16½		7.6	38.7
114.90	First Tech	727½	+ 35½	1.6	21.6
3,344.70	GKN	947½	− 10	3.5	
25,009.90	General Mtr	3518¼	− 34¼	3.5	
227.10	Hartys	428½	− 21½	4.4	10.1
19,698.00	Honda Motor	2022	+ 70¼	0.4	
558.00	Lard	391	− 4	4.2	11.2
2,772.30	LucasVarity	195½	+ 3	0.0	19.4
384.30	Mayflower	152½	+ 5	1.8	28.7
38.00	Sylone	156½	− 1½	4.7	11.5
684.80	T & N	130½	− 5½	5.7	

PHARMACEUTICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,629.10	BR Biotech	248	+ 6½	...	...
160.30	Cantab Pharma	977½	− 5	...	...
496.60	Celltech	658	+ 58½	...	...
368.10	Chiroscience	330½	+ 10	...	...
317.40	Cortecs	245½	− 27½	...	...
42,709.00	Glaxo Wellcm	1200	+ 6½	3.4	24.7
262.80	ML Laboratories	195	− 3½	...	51.9
677.40	Medeva	275	− 23½	2.2	...
123.50	Peptide Thera	345	+ 26	...	...
32.28	Proteus Intl	59½	− 1	...	...
341.20	Scotia	442½	+ 12½	...	...
191.30	Shire Pharms	227½	+ 16½	...	...
209.90	SkyePharma	75	− 2	...	...
28,176.50	SmithKline	1022	+ 26½	2.0	25.8
78.30	[illegible]	359½	− 1	...	...
151.00	Vanguard	609	+ 8	...	...
80.30	Xenova	347	− 16½	...	...
18,234.88	Zeneca	1929½	+ 50½	2.3	27.2

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
1,993	Treas 7% 1997	[illegible]		6.98	6.20
5,550	Treas 8¾% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.68	6.14
620	Exch 15% 1997	[illegible]	[illegible]	14.44	6.26
2,562	Exch 9¾% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.54	6.43
9,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.21	6.53
[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998-01	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.25	6.60
[illegible]	Treas 12% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.91	6.66
[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.16	6.68
[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.10	6.71
[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.77
[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.82	6.67
5,950	Treas 6% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.08	6.75
[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.50	6.82
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.54	6.84
9,200	Treas 8% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.73	6.85
[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	[illegible]	[illegible]	11.11	6.91
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.08	6.90
12,752	Treas 7% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.97	6.97

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.70	6.97
[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.61	[illegible]
[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.70	7.38
[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.99	6.94
[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.07	5.74
[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.98
[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.84	6.95
[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.76	6.99
[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.28	7.02
[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.75	7.02
[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.25	7.09
[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.39	7.32
[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.70	7.12
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.65	7.64
[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.68	7.02
[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.12	[illegible]
[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.82	7.05
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.44	7.08

LONGS (over 15 years)

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.75	7.10
[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.71	7.10
[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.67	7.11
[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	[illegible]	[illegible]	6.33	6.85
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.37	7.10
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.34	7.12
[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.31	7.07
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.46	7.12
[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.23	7.07

UNDATED

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
1,909	War Ln 3½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.13	...
475	Treas 2½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.34	...
359	Consols 4%	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.40	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	10%	5%
800	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	[illegible]	...	...	3.21
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.65	3.27
[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.99	3.40
1,150	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.02	3.41
2,350	Treas IL 2% 2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.17	3.42
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2009	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.28	3.50
2,950	Treas IL 2½% 2011	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.37	3.53
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2013	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.37	3.55
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2016	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.40	3.58
3,350	Treas IL 2½% 2020	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.47	3.61
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2024	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.45	3.61
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.48	3.61

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[illegible] STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: API, Diploma, London & Overseas. **Finals:** DCC. **Economic statistics:** UK April producer prices index, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills, EU finance ministers meeting in Strasbourg (to May 16), Bank of France discount Treasury bill auction, Bank of France money market tender.

TOMORROW

Interims: Allied Domecq, Ashanti Goldfields (q1), BOC Group, Freepages Group, General Accident, Holmes & Marchant, Sedgwick Group, Slimma. **Finals:** Time Products, Voyageur European, Westbury. **Economic statistics:** British Retail Consortium retail sales survey, Bank of England to give details of gilts auctions on May 20 and 22, Bank of England inflation report, US April retail sales, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills, French April provisional consumer prices index, API weekly oil supply statistics.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Bank of Ireland, Imperial Tobacco Group, Sage Group, Sanderson Electronics, Scottish Radio Holdings. **Finals:** Cable and Wireless, Environmental Investment Company, Safeway. **Economic statistics:** UK April unemployment, UK March average earnings and unit wage costs, French February current account, US April producer prices index, US March business inventories.

THURSDAY

Interims: Burton Group, Capital Radio, Compass Group, Concentric, Grand Metropolitan, Hanson, Hay & Robertson, Maid (q1), Majedie Investments, Tomkinsons. **Finals:** British Telecom, ScottishPower. **Economic statistics:** UK April retail prices index.

FRIDAY

Interims: Chrysalis Group, Overseas Investment. **Finals:** Albany Investment Trust, Fine Art Developments, Ocean Wilson Holdings.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: *Buy* HSBC, Allied Domecq, Trocadero, FI Group, Sunderland; *Sell* Safeway, Wiggins; *Hold* Rugby Estates. **The Sunday Telegraph:** *Buy* Ladbroke, *Bryant, Queensborough* Hlds, Harvey Nichols, Maid; **Sell:** Chemring, Commercial Union. **Independent on Sunday:** *Buy* P&O, *Sell* Eadie Hlds. **Observer:** *Buy* ICI, *Hold* BTR, Sainsbury. **Mail on Sunday:** *Buy* Yorklyde; *Hold* Electronic Boutique.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

BT faces grilling on MCI alliance

BRITISH TELECOM: Full-year figures on Thursday will give brokers a chance to quiz the board on prospects for the alliance with MCI in America.

Recent financial results from MCI left the market unimpressed. By contrast, NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for a reasonably solid performance from BT, whose chief executive is Sir Peter Bonfield. It is forecasting a 3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, from £3.5 billion to £3.62 billion, with earnings up just 1 per cent, from 36.7p a share to 37.2p. The overall picture is likely to prove mixed with growth still being achieved through new services. Redundancy charges will be lower but higher than the original figure pencilled in by brokers. The final figure is expected to fall from £421 million to £365 million. BT forecast a final dividend of 11.95p at the time of the MCI acquisition making a total of 19.85p, up 6.1 per cent.

GRAND METROPOLITAN: Half-year figures on Thursday, should reveal the early benefits of the group's recent change of direction. Solid organic growth, better return on capital and maybe even a share buyback are likely to be contained in the figures. Pre-tax profits are expected to grow 3 per cent, from £455 million to £469 million. But earnings growth, of between 14.8p a share and 15.2p, will be held back by the affects of a strong pound and the dilution from the sale of its European food operations. Another strong performance is expected from Pillsbury while Burger King will have outperformed McDonald's, its bigger rival. IDV should have benefited from a better pricing policy. The half-year payout will be pegged at 5.9p a share.

HANSON: These will be the first figures recorded since the group completed its four-way demerger. The City is looking for £65 million when the group reports on Thursday, with earnings of 8.5p a share accompanied by a payout of 4p. The boost to profits will come from improved trading conditions on both sides of the Atlantic for its aggregates business. But the problem of oversupply at Hanson Brick continues. For the full year the market is looking for profits of £236 million.

Sir Peter Bonfield, left, of BT, and Dick Brown, of C&W: both report year-end figures

IMPERIAL TOBACCO: These are the first figures from the group since it was demerged from Hanson. Pre-tax profits on Wednesday, are expected to run out at £143 million although operating profits are expected to show a 9 per cent increase at £190 million. The payout will be 9p.

Imperial is now facing up to increased competition and may have to look abroad for future expansion. Sales of hand-rolling tobaccos continue to grow but the group will have done well to retain its share of the premium brand market.

ALLIED DOMECQ: The City will be looking for signs of recovery after the recent decline in profitability when half-year figures are published tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are likely to be marginally lower, at £319 million, compared with £321 million last time, while earnings remain unaltered at 19.2p.

The retail side will have benefited for the first time from the release of the beer provision set up after the disposal of its share in Carlsberg-Tetley, but spirits will suffer from the strong pound. The interim payment is expected to be unchanged at 9.4p.

CABLE AND WIRELESS: The year-end figures, due on Wednesday, will include the results of Mercury Communications for the last time. In April, Mercury became part of Cable and Wireless Communications, the phone and cable group that is 53 per cent owned by C&W. Mercury's disappearance will not disappoint investors. An increasingly nimble British Telecom has made its life miserable in recent years.

Analysts expect C&W, whose chief executive is Dick Brown, to report pre-tax profits of about £1.35 billion, up 7 per cent from the £1.26 billion earned the year before. The City will be looking for news on the future of Hongkong Telecom, C&W's largest business. There is speculation that C&W is willing to reduce its stake in the company in exchange for greater access to the Chinese market.

BOC GROUP: The strong pound will have caused problems for the industrial gases group and this will be reflected in a dull set of interim figures tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are expected to be down by about £3 million, to £214 million, with earnings virtually unaltered at 28p. Even so, there should be scope for a 1p rise in the payout to 14.5p. In addition to the strong pound, the group will have also experienced a sizeable downturn in profits at its healthcare division, which is facing increased competition, especially in the anaesthetic market. Volumes among industrial gases will have improved.

SAFEWAY: Brokers were expecting the worst from full-year figures due out on Wednesday, after its profit warning in February. Subsequent news of improved like-for-like sales trends from the other supermarket chains has allowed them a little more optimism. But they will no doubt still be paying close attention to detail of sales and margins. Pre-tax profits are expected to grow from £401 million to £427 million with earnings 10 per cent higher at 27.7p.

SCOTTISHPOWER: The market will be looking for fresh information about the integration of Southern Water. The group has already promised costs savings of £44 million by 1999.

Full-year figures on Thursday will contain just seven months of Southern. They should show pre-tax profits up 30 per cent at £579.7 million with earnings growth less spectacular. Brokers are looking for a 7 per cent increase to 39.9p. The payout is likely to rise from 15.5p to 18.5p.

BURTON GROUP: Despite an apparently subdued performance in the run-up to the Christmas season, the City is looking for a solid increase in profits when the group unveils half-year figures on Thursday. At the pre-tax level, profits should grow almost 23 per cent, from £88.1 million to £108 million, with earnings growth up from 4.5p to 5.2p. The debut of Racing Green and Innovations accounted for almost 4 per cent of the 11 per cent increase in sales announced in January. Burton is expected to increase the dividend from 1.15p to 1.3p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Bank report will clarify rates view

The Bank of England's quarterly inflation report, published tomorrow, will give a firmer indication of whether the Bank feels that a quarter-point rise in rates is sufficient for the time being. It will also shed light on the Bank's views on the strength of sterling.

The Bank has been especially concerned about the inflationary impact of a tightening labour market during the last few months so the market's attention will also be closely focused on Wednesday's labour market statistics.

MMS International, the economic forecasting company, predicts that unemployment will fall by 30,000 in April, compared with a 41,000 fall the previous month. But average earnings should stabilise as the City bonus season comes to an end, although MMS predicts a slight rise, to 5.25 per cent from 5 per cent.

The retail prices data, due to be published on Thursday, will show that current inflation remains subdued. Headline inflation is expected to fall from 2.6 per cent to 2.3 per cent. Underlying inflation — which excludes mortgage payments — could come in at 2.4 per cent, just below the Government's target figure of 2.5 per cent.

The producer prices figures for April, which are released today, will provide more evidence of the deflationary impact that the strong pound is having on factory-gate prices.

Factory-gate prices are predicted to show a rise of 0.3 per cent, compared with a fall of 0.1 per cent in March, but the annual rate is expected to remain unchanged at 1 per cent. Input prices are expected to show an 8.5 per cent fall year-on-year.

In the United States, tomorrow's retail sales figures will be closely monitored for signs of a slowdown ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting on May 20. MMS forecasts that sales in April will fall by 0.5 per cent compared with a rise of 0.2 per cent the previous month due to a big drop in car sales.

The producer prices on Wednesday and consumer inflation figures the following day will confirm that inflation remains under control. The April factory-gate prices are expected to show a small rise of 0.1 per cent, while CPI will remain unchanged at 0.1 per cent.

In Germany, the half-yearly tax estimates, due on Thursday, are expected to show the country on course to just miss the 3 per cent budget deficit target demanded by the Maastricht Treaty. But economists believe that the German Government will take immediate fiscal action to reinforce confidence in European Monetary Union proceeding on time.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

GILT-EDGED

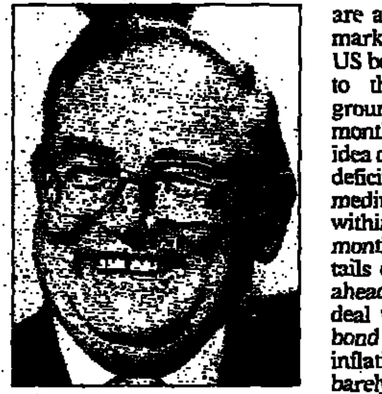
Outlook after Labour's Bank surprise

Reform of the Bank of England was widely expected during the lifetime of a Labour government, but there was little indication in the election campaign that Gordon Brown would move quite so quickly. The announcement on Tuesday that Eddie George will take control of monetary policy was, not surprisingly, favourably received by the gilt market. The removal of political considerations from the interest rate decision was always going to be viewed positively; further encouragement was provided by confirmation that the existing target to keep underlying inflation at or below 2.5 per cent will be maintained. Ten-year yields, which traded just below 7.5 per cent in the aftermath of Labour's landslide election win, rallied down to 7 per cent after the change in monetary arrangements.

So far, so good for gilts. The risk is, of course, that an operationally independent central bank is more likely to act hawkishly on interest rates if it sees any threat of inflation. It is clear, for example, from minutes of past "Ken and Eddie" meetings that base rates would have been raised some months ago if Eddie George had been able to dictate monetary policy. This, coupled with Labour's determination to move speedily in key policy areas, suggests that the mini-Budget due to be held in June could produce a thorough review of fiscal options. Most significantly, Gordon Brown will be painfully aware that failure to address the structural aspect of the budget deficit will heighten the probability of Mr George using his new power at the earliest opportunity.

In view of this, it now seems unlikely that the Chancellor's financial statement will be limited to a windfall tax, the "welfare to work" strategy and a cut in VAT on fuel. Although much speculation has surrounded the future of the dividend tax credit, Gordon Brown may see the personal sector as the more appropriate area on which to focus, given the economic climate. Abolishing Miras and the married couple's allowance could, for example, easily be justified on both political and economic grounds, and raise more than £5 billion for the Treasury.

Overseas investors are bound to be impressed by new Labour's assertiveness. The institutional change brings the UK that much closer to fulfilling the criteria for EMU, though joining in 1999 has been ruled unlikely. Even so, the credibility that overseas investors attach to policy-making now ought to be raised. Expectations of higher interest rates have already lifted sterling's trade-weighted index nearly 20 per cent in the past year. Of course, if the Government chooses to lean on fiscal policy to restrain demand, that will lessen the need for aggressive action on interest rates. If so, sterling is unlikely to rise much further, but, by the same token, it is unlikely to fall far. A combination of modestly higher interest rates, a tightening of fiscal policy and a stable pound should help to suppress any build-up of inflationary pressures, and this should be positive for the gilt market.



George: new power

International developments are always critical to the gilt market and, in this respect, the US bond market remains vital to the interest rate background. After month upon month of negotiations, the idea of bringing the US budget deficit into balance in the medium term now finally lies within reach. Several more months of thrashing out details of a balanced budget lie ahead, but, ultimately, the deal will be beneficial for all bond markets. In the US, inflationary pressures are barely evident. What role the stronger dollar has played in subduing inflation is hard to say. However, at this late stage in the cycle, when, with the economy moving towards full employment, it is natural to expect inflationary pressures to be mounting, a strong dollar can only serve to keep these pressures at bay. The Federal Reserve is still likely to raise interest rates to slow the economy down. Although the bond market will surely fret over the prospect, bond market fundamentals — low and stable inflation and a rapidly shrinking budget deficit relative to GDP — mean that yields should not rise much.

Given this reassuring backdrop, can gilt yields fall further or is all the good news in the price? The gilt market is technically overbought and there is bound to be some short-term profit-taking. The more pertinent point, given the likely aspiration of joining EMU eventually, is how much more the differential between yields on gilts and German bonds can narrow. The experience of the formerly higher-yielding European bond markets suggests that the differential could narrow by at least another 20 basis points. However, with yields on German bonds expected to rise in response to a pick-up in economic growth as the year progresses, this narrowing in differential effectively means that ten-year gilt yields could end the year at 7 per cent.

MIKE LENHOFF AND
SIMON RUBINSOHN
Capel-Cure Myers

Dow tipped to buy ICI Australia

By MARTIN BARROW

ICI AUSTRALIA is braced for a full takeover bid for the company, with Dow Chemical Co of America tipped as a possible bidder. The board of the Australian company is also considering a partial share buyback.

ICI Australia has been locked in talks with its financial advisers to plan the next move after a decision by Britain's ICI to sell its 62.4 per cent stake in the business, was announced last week.

The British company could raise about £1.1 billion by selling the stake, helping to offset the cost of the £5 billion purchase of Unilever's speciality chemicals businesses.

The disposal is expected to take place in July and the shares could be sold in more than one tranche. However, the board of ICI Australia believes there is a realistic chance a single buyer may emerge with a takeover bid for the whole company.

Warren Haynes, managing director of ICI Australia, yesterday said it was possible an overseas interest could buy the whole company. "I suppose I shouldn't discount that as a possibility."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.17	2.01	Malta	0.650	0.594
Austria Sch	20.18	18.63	Netherlds Gld	3.256	2.979
Belgium Fr	59.42	54.79	New Zealand $	2.50	2.27
Canada $	2.357	2.181	Norway Kr	11.95	11.07
Cyprus Cyp£	0.857	0.790	Portugal Esc	287.00	266.50
Denmark Kr	10.95	10.13	S Africa Rd	7.89	6.98
Finland Mkk	8.78	8.08	Spain Pta	242.00	224.50
France Fr	9.65	8.93	Sweden Kr	13.15	12.12
Germany Dm	2.88	2.66	Switzerland Fr	2.44	2.24
Greece Dr	460	423	Turkey Lira	226739	212222
Hong Kong $	13.25	12.12	USA $	1.714	1.580
Iceland	127	107			
Ireland Pt	1.11	1.03			
Israel Shk	5.77	5.12			
Italy Lira	2875	2654			
Japan Yen	210.50	194.00			

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading Friday.

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France	(FFr)	1985	61%	1091	571	331	502
Luxembourg (post)	(LFr)	8164	65%	5040	2635	1527	2811
Netherlands	(DFl)	778	56%	428	224	130	188
Spain	(PTS)	75298	29%	41414	21848	12550	17143
Switzerland	(SFr)	809	49%	445	232	135	177
Rest of Europe	(£)	474	n/a	237	118.5	79.04	130

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Prudential Banking plc has increased its Standard Variable Mortgage Rate by 0.35% with effect from Monday 12th May 1997 for both new and existing customers. For further information phone 0800 000 222 or contact your Prudential representative.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

TAPPEN

(b) The plug by which the rectum of a bear is closed during hibernation. The Swedish and Norwegian word for a plug. "The *tappen is almost entirely composed of pine-leaves, and various* substances which the Bear scratches out of the ants' nests."

TREY

***(b)* The three at dice or cards. In dice, that side of the die that is marked with three pips or spots. Also a throw which turns up *this side*. From the Old French and Anglo-French *treis* three. "There's luck under the deuce but none under the trey."**

UTRUM

(a) A writ *authorising the holding of an assize to decide the* status of a property. Usually in *assize of utrum*. From the Latin *neuter singular of uter* which or whether. "*Assize of Utrum may* not be brought by a vicar for a small pension paid to a religious house."

TINTO

(c) Spanish rough red wine, whence *Tent* as the English name. From *tinto* the Spanish *for tinted, "a blackish wine in Spaine"*. Also the name of a French wine. And one Portuguese meaning: "*Tinto is a red Madeira wine, wanting the high aroma of the* white sorts; and, when old, resembling tawny port."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... c3! wins material, e.g. 2 Qxd6 cxd6 or 2 dxc3 Qxe5.

هكذا من الاصل

Government to give guidance on millennium bug

By Fraser Nelson

THE Government's computer agency will today launch a guide aimed at solving the millennium computer problem. It says the guide could save British industry millions of pounds in fees to computer consultancies.

The guide, compiled by the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency, will be a DIY manual to help businesses to draw up a plan to correct the bug. The CCTA says the guide could save thousand of pounds for businesses which would otherwise be making their first steps by seeking professional advice.

The CCTA said the guide will help managers to decide if they have a problem and to identify which parts of the business may be affected. It will also advise on millennium pitfalls: spending money on correcting computer systems which can be ignored or fixing systems due for replacement.

The CCTA emphasised that its manual is not official Government policy but a manual designed for the public sector which is being made publicly available because it is relevant to all business.

A spokesman said: "As an agency, our objectives will be achieved if the public sector knows what to do in time. But most of the information we gathered was from the private sector and relevant to all businesses concerned about the problem."

The millennium computer bug is a simple logic flaw affecting systems that read years in a two-digit format. Many will be thrown into confusion when told the year '00' comes after the year '99.'

The CCTA's guide, which took eight months to produce, says the crucial points are:

☐ Managers take a direct hand in solving the millennium problem and do not leave it to the computer department.

☐ Action is taken immediately to avoid the escalating costs. Computer services groups are already planning to double their fees over the next 12 months.

☐ A three-year plan is drawn up and a separate budget is earmarked to cover all eventualities.

☐ Money is not wasted correcting systems due for replacement. Critical computer systems must be corrected first, it says, while many stand-alone systems can be ignored.

☐ Businesses ensure their clients and suppliers are also taking action, ensuring insulation from knock-on effects.

Gas complaints past their peak

By Our Business Staff

COMPLAINTS against British Gas, arguably the country's least popular utility, appear to have peaked, the Gas Consumers' Council reports today.

Latest figures show a fall in complaints against British Gas Services and British Gas Energy Centres in the three months to March 31. British Gas Trading, which deals with billing and gas supply, enjoyed a 7 per cent fall in complaints in March, although complaints rose 22 per cent over the full quarter, the council says.

The shift has been cautiously welcomed as a turning point by the council and British Gas, which has seen complaint levels soar in the past three years. In 1996 complaints against British Gas Trading rose by 103 per cent, to 34,211.

Phil Hamer, field director for the council, said: "The figures are still not good but compared with the problems there have been it is an improvement. It's an indication that maybe they have turned the corner in terms of improving customer services but, make no mistake, they've still got a long way to go."

A key problem was that customers were having to make several phone calls to answer queries rather than having them dealt with a "one-stop-shop" system, he said.

The council blamed the huge volume of complaints last year on the inadequacy of a new computer billing system, which sent out scores of incorrect bills and threatened some customers with disconnection. The problem is believed to have cost the company £80 million.

Shining lights: Nicholas Easton, left, and his father Leslie, who founded Versalite, are taking their stained glass company to the main market this summer through a placing to raise £800,000. The two will become paper millionaires after the flotation, sharing a stake worth £3.2 million. Their company exports its coloured transfers to customers in 11 countries, and last returned profits of £163,000. It will be valued at £4.3 million, with dealings beginning on Wednesday.

Shell set to weather protest vote

By Carl Mortished

BRITAIN'S largest fund management groups are mainly ignoring calls from environmental lobbyists to discomfort Shell by supporting a church-sponsored resolution at Wednesday's annual meeting.

The resolution calls on Shell to improve its environment policies and to conduct an external audit on their implementation. In spite of attempts by lobbyists to mobilise pension fund trustees, most fund management companies have chosen to accept Shell's argument that directors should determine matters of policy without interference.

However, one leading fund management group was not satisfied with the Shell position and has chosen to abstain while sending a written warning to the company. A spokesman said: "Shell have moved some way but we don't believe they have moved far enough. We have sent them a yellow card to say that if this issue comes up again we will not support them."

Shell has met with leading shareholders, who have been extensively lobbied by Pirc, the consultancy, as well as environmental and human rights lobby groups such as Amnesty International.

One fund manager rejected the notion that environmental policy should be subject to shareholder vote: "If you think the company is badly run, you should replace the board."

Last week, the Prudential indicated that it would support the board, voting some 3 per cent of the stock of Shell Transport & Trading.

Pharmacia & Upjohn names chief

Pharmacia & Upjohn, the Swedish-US drugs group with headquarters in London, yesterday named Fred Hassan as its new president and chief executive. He succeeds John Zabriskie, who resigned abruptly in January.

Mr Hassan, 51, is executive vice-president of American Home Products. He has spent 26 years in the industry, including 17 years with Sandoz in America. He said that P&U faced "some clear challenges, but I am convinced of our strong fundamentals — global reach, a powerful R&D base and a solid new-product pipeline." Mr Hassan, a US citizen of Pakistani origin, was educated at Imperial College, London, and Harvard.

Export barriers

An array of trade barriers, from tariffs and local taxes to complex Customs procedures and even bribery, are hampering Britain's small export firms, a survey claims today. The British Chambers of Commerce found that 54 per cent of the smaller exporters questioned had come up against obstacles inside and outside the European Union that affected their ability to compete. More focus and resources to support the businesses was needed, it said.

Tobacco float

Gallaher, the UK tobacco subsidiary of American Brands, is expected to give details on Wednesday of its £2.2 billion London stock market flotation. Gallaher controls 39 per cent of the British tobacco market, owning the Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut brands. The shares are expected to be priced around 320p.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1997 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
139½	100½	10.90	AFA Systems	109½	+ 5		...
153½	138½	20.00	AMCO Corp	140	...	5.5	10.2
422½	170	66.10	AMD Int Pub	307½	..	..	...
107½	84½	6.35	Abacus Recruit	102½	.	0.6	19.8
164½	99½	26.50	Access Plus	159½	...	3.8	20.8
100½	29	5.31	Active Imaging	29	− 6½	...	.
200	200	29.50	A de Grachy	200	..	3.9	15.0
11¼	8¼	9.78	African Gold	9½	− 1½	...	20.2
117½	82½	41.00	Airtech	90	...	..	...
44½	31¼	14.60	Albemarle & Bd	38½	+ 1	0.8	16.6
50½	29½	8.64	Alizyme	50	+ 3½	...	..
111½	101½	3.10	Anglo-Welsh	101½	...	3.0	...
525	455	48.90	Ann St Brewery	510	+ 7½	4.8	11.5
1125	1015	6.64	Ann St Cv Pf	1120	..	7.1	...
127½	65¼	92.30	Antonov	126½	+ 16½	..	...
148½	120½	21.60	Aortech	125½	..	...	...
100½	100	10.20	Archer Dedicated	100	..	1.0	55.6
29½	7	5.33	Arion Props	22½	− 7	..	...
115	30½	47.60	Ashurst	55	...	.	...
232½	130	44.90	Ask Central	232½	+ 37½	0.3	53.1
64½	64½	1.18	Athelney Trust	64½	...	..	...
103½	86½	66.50	Avalon Oil	87½	− 1	...	.
144½	130½	43.60	BATM Adv Comms	140½	− 2	2.2	..
59½	32½	6.95	Barbican Health	36	+ 3½	...	..
9¾	6½	15.00	Barnsford	9¾	...	...	...
3¼	2½	5.19	Beechcroft	2¾	.	.	9.3
3¼	2½	6.23	Beaufort	3¼	..	..	34.5
76½	61½	5.70	Bilston Bttrsea	64	..	2.9	17.0
64	42½	23.20	Birmingham City	46½	+ ½	...	...
175	145	1.18	Bowness Les	172½	..	3.3	7.4
62½	45½	9.47	Brancote Hldgs	54½	..	...	..
93	88	3.79	Br Bloodstock	90	.	2.1	25.8
565	510	67.40	Brockbank	550	+ 5	1.9	13.4
168½	144½	17.80	CA Coutts Hldgs	167½	+ 1	2.2	18.8
180	128½	8.97	C & B Publishing	175	..		..
109½	109½	0.12	CCI Founder Shs	109½	..		...
182½	140½	1.45	CCI Hldgs	181½	+ 2	1.7	8.2
210½	170	4.86	Cafe Inns	170	− 5	1.8	13.1
70	55	7.99	Caledonian Tst	65	..	.	11.1
3½	3	3.16	Caldore Group	3		..	.
1½	0½	1.60	Caldore Gp Wts	1		.	...
17½	10½	2.49	Cambridge Min Res	11½	− ½	..	...
51	29	43.80	Card Clear	47½	.		47.0
97½	67½	6.84	Carisbrooke Shp	67½		6.5	6.4
62	52	3.15	Cassidy Bros	57	.	6.6	14.7
57½	52½	2.29	Cavendish W	52½	− 1	3.6	25.1
18	13	4.68	Celebrated Group	14	+ ½	2.4	12.4
£550	£275	85.90	Celtic	£310	+1000	..	.
£450	£270		Celtic Pf Shs	£310	+500		..
111½	96½	14.40	Cl Comms/TV	105½		3.3	12.6
65	54½	12.60	Charlton Athltc	57½		..	.
9	6¼	8.75	Charterhouse	8¼	+ ¼		18.3
37½	22½	2.59	Chartered Inf	22½		..	..
170	114½	197.40	Chelsea Village	125½	− 10		.
265	145	13.70	Chemical Design	210	...	...	..
202½	65	7.46	Circle Comms	67½	..	..	5.2
110	110	0.99	Clan Homes	110	.		72.7
2½	2½	1.05	ClubPartners	2½	.	..	
150½	132½	16.30	Comino	147½	+ 8	1.9	13.8
542½	527½	12.70	Com de Pt Fin	527½	.	2.4	10.1
30	14	20.10	Concurrent Tech	21½		0.6	33.9
150	95	0.25	Conc Tech A Pf	100		.	
150	95	0.25	Conc Tech B Pf	100		.	.
200	125	1.01	Conc Tech Rd Pf	150		.	
300	150	0.17	Conc Tech Cv Pf	225		.	.
41	36½	8.36	Conister Tst	38	..	6.6	9.4
4¼	2	5.46	Corporate Svcs	3½	.	.	17.6
209½	153½	40.60	Country Gdns	206½	...	1.0	19.0
160	117½	4.52	Cozy Gdns Pf	150		4.4	.
37½	9	3.95	Cress Intl	11	− 6½	...	..
290	235	4.08	Crown Eye	255	.	6.1	6.2
28½	14½	6.76	Crown Products	14½	− 1		36.2
20½	18½	0.89	Dalkeith Inns	18½		.	.
105½	84½	5.66	David Glass	104½	− 2	6.0	12.0
150	120½	5.27	Dawn Til Dusk	150	..	.	11.6
262½	215	130.30	Dawson Hdgs	230	.	2.2	17.7
16½	10½	6.71	Dean Corp	14½		4.3	8.5
174½	169½	10.60	Deep Sea Leisure	163½		.	22.7
3¼	2½	3.23	Dentmaster	2½		.	16.6
460	393	50.90	Dicom	394	.	0.5	16.2
105½	29½	15.40	Digital Acrch	104½	...	..	.
72½	50½	11.70	[illegible]	62½			
270	240	12.40	Dobbies Garden	265	+ 5	2.1	16.7
127½	122½	12.60	Dragons Health	125½	− 2		23.7
3¼	2½	2.30	Drings of Bath	3	..		14.7
81½	49½	12.50	Easynet	77½			
445	207½	23.90	Elec Retail Sys	397½	− 5		.
60½	36½	22.70	Electrophoretics	42½	− 2½		
52½	7½	3.73	Epic Multimedia	16	+ ½	..	.
65	45	11.60	Eclipse Netwks	45	.	..	.
275	190	8.32	Eurasia Mining	225	.	..	
125	125	5.62	Euro Sales Fn	125	..	.	
175	155	17.20	Eve Group	175	.	1.1	
350	260	6.61	[illegible]	290	.		17.3
77½	47½	3.54	Fayrewood	67½		0.7	13.3
191½	130½	54.80	Fionet	147½	+ 5	..	
69½	47½	2.38	Fielders	47½	..	3.9	27.4
242½	205	5.48	Finl Publs	232½	...	..	8.1
14½	11½	2.33	First Infor	11½	...	...	...
200	109½	48.00	Fitness First	174½	− 3	...	68.4
230	160	4.10	Flomerics	160	...	2.3	13.1
292½	272½	8.28	Floral St	275	...	0.7	19.6
32½	22½	4.72	FNR Hldgs	22½	− 2	...	...
152½	115½	13.00	Formscan	122½	...	3.3	12.3
110½	89½	6.40	Fountain Forest	95½	+ 1	...	14.7
51¼	37	203.30	Freepages	42	+ 1	...	...
180½	140½	10.60	Furlong Homes	176½	+ 1	2.3	12.1
144½	124½	15.30	Future Int Telep	137½	...	...	...
298	129½	15.30	GB Railways	175	− 3½	...	...
55½	52½	16.30	Gall Thomson Env	52½	...	...	9.9
16¼	11½	46.60	Gander Hldgs	16	...	...	...
107	82½	80.10	Gartland W&B	92	− ½	0.4	8.3
102	54½	74.50	Geo Int Media	74½	+ 6	...	...
27¾	12	34.60	Gold Mines Sard	26¾	+ ¾	...	..
17	7	8.57	Gold Mns Sard Wts	16	+ ½	...	...
127½	120½	43.30	Goshawk Insce	127½	...	...	...
15¼	14¼	1.80	Grosvenor Ltd	14¼	...	...	...
148½	140	33.50	Guiton	148½	+ 3½	3.9	10.9
330	265	32.40	HIT Entertain	290	...	0.2	...
8	5¾	2.30	Hansom	5¾	...	...	...
175	155	11.40	Hardy Undwg	155	...	...	...
77½	54½	3.33	Hat Pin	75½	...	4.5	12.1
315	275	7.12	Heavitree	315	...	2.8	16.4
270	245	10.70	Heavitree A	265	...	3.3	13.8
180	110	5.32	Hercules Prop	180	...	...	8.7
175	105	10.20	Highams Sys	115	− 10	...	16.8
123	115	147.80	Hiscox	120	...	2.6	...
75	75	1.16	Hurlingham	75	...	...	..
107½	104½	7.10	Hydro-Dynamic	105½	...	1.4	...
172½	138	26.20	IES	151½	− 1½	1.3	47.0
77½	68½	17.30	Ind Brit Health	67½	− ½	1.9	9.5
82½	55½	10.70	Indpt Energy	81½	...	...	...
133½	116½	22.80	Indpt Radio	127½	− 1	...	...
196	141½	37.70	Infobank Intl	196	+ 35	...	...
60½	42½	11.80	Inner Workings	60½	...	...	...
79½	62½	16.00	Intelligent Env	71½	...	...	...
110	42½	28.20	Internet Tech	101½	− 3½	...	...
151½	35½	19.50	Interoute Tele	58½	+ 13	...	...
285	222½	34.30	Intl Greetings	260	...	2.6	14.6
179½	144½	38.10	IOC Intl	155½	...	...	47.9
164½	162½	7.29	ITG Group	162½	− 2	...	...
155½	122½	12.60	Jardinerie Ints	142½	..	...	...
74½	62½	3.04	Jasmin	74½	...	...	12.3
347	290	25.10	Jennings Bros	340	...	2.6	23.3
4¼	3½	5.19	J Lewis Hford	3¾	− ¼	...	18.1
62½	50½	8.33	Jordec	51½	− 1	...	...
5¼	2	5.73	Just Group	3½	.	...	...
132½	91½	51.90	KS Biomedix	122½	...	...	...
50½	47½	5.46	Kess River	47½	...	...	...
130½	122½	5.30	Lady in Leisure	127½	− 3	...	...
132½	77½	30.30	La Senza	90½	+ 1	...	...
150	130	24.90	Lancashire En	135	...	4.1	12.9
385	340	23.40	Lawrence	355	+ 5	2.8	...
3350	3150	62.50	Lawrie Group	3350	...	2.6	10.2
370	326	61.40	Le Riches Strs	370	+ 13	5.6	15.8
14	9	0.46	Lde Numbers	9¼	+ ¼	...	...
4	2	0.06	Lde Numbers Wts	2		...	...
535	480	10.70	Loades	535	.	0.2	50.7
106½	61½	25.40	Loftus Road	83½	+ 1	...	...
12¾	11¼	3.58	Lon & Edin Publ	11¾	...	2.7	8.9
75	70	1.75	London Town	70	..	2.9	13.6
117½	112½	3.69	Longbridge Intl	117½	.	...	16.4
87½	37½	10.70	Loot	46	− 1½	...	...
3¼	1¼	3.03	Lotteryking	1¾	...	...	22.4
1	0½	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	...	..	...
88	58	9.68	MMS Petroleum	80	+ 2	...	...
27½	14	9.23	Magnum Power	14½	...	...	...
290½	247½	32.30	Majestic Wine	253½	− 2	...	11.0
79½	9½	8.40	Manx & O'seas	14	..	2.9	26.7
120	105	2.74	Matrix Hlthcare	120	+ 15	7.0	13.8
13¼	10¼	4.23	Mears Group	11½	...	2.1	11.0
93½	83½	54.10	Megalomedia	92½	...	...	51.9
86½	83½	0.93	Megalomedia Wts	85	...	...	...
67½	42½	2.96	Meltek	42½	− 7	7.4	31.4
65	33½	23.80	Memory Corp	37½	− 2	...	...
16½	6½	5.57	Meteor Tech	8	...	...	...
15	7	0.14	Meteor Tech Wts	7	...	...	...
90	46	4.22	Methven's	50	+ 2	...	...
25	20	5.41	Metrodome	22	− 1	...	
84½	75½	4.59	Mondas	75½	− 2	...	
452½	280	34.30	Moorepay	452½	+ 12½	1.7	39.7
112	90	7.57	Mountcashel	100	...	...	8.8
215	169½	37.30	Mulberry Group	180	− ½	0.5	28.1
40	9½	3.03	MultiMedia	10½	..	.	
21	17	1.40	NECA	19	...	3.3	8.2
54½	47½	19.60	NMT	50	+ ½	...	...
72½	67½	1.94	NFP	67½	...	1.9	29.8
265	217	16.60	NWF Grp	218½	− 6½	6.1	11.2
220	190	15.90	Nash (Wm)	220	+ 5	4.3	8.1
300	275	7.05	Neill Clerk	275	− 5	3.6	9.9
85½	45½	10.30	Netcall	75½	− 7	...	...
242	185½	69.00	Network Tech	214½	− 10	0.6	...
80½	75½	1.50	Nothomes	77½		...	24.0
50½	30½	6.02	Nthn Petlm	35½	− 2	...	..
29½	28½	1.74	Northstar Sec	29	+ ½	...	...
8	3	0.15	Northstar Sec Wts	7½	+ 2½	...	
118½	112½	46.20	Nursing Home	118½	...	4.0	28.6
167½	102½	18.50	Omnicare	158	− 8	1.3	...
10½	6½	1.80	Omnimedia	6½	...	...	...
97½	50½	1.74	On Line	52½	...	...	...
65½	37½	27.00	Oxford Biomedica	47½	− 2	...	...
3¾	1¾	35.30	Pacific Media	2¾	− ¼	...	
69½	29	12.80	Pan Andean Res	29	− 26½	...	...
245	220	5.89	Park Ests(Liv)	245	...	4.7	17.9
23¾	13	5.61	Pembertons	20	...	...	...
57½	40½	8.74	Personal No Cd	48½	...	...	...
65	38½	17.60	Petra Diamonds	60½	+ 3	...	...
40	13½	0.63	Petra Dmds Wt	37½	+ 7½	...	...
137½	92½	37.70	Philippine Gd	108	− 20	...	...
67½	52½	14.80	Pilat Tech	67½	+ 12½	...	...
138½	113½	23.00	Polymasc Pharms	115	− 7½	...	...
2¾	1½	3.28	Pordum Foods	1½		...	.
1½	1	0.22	Pordum Fds Wts	1			
22	13	9.51	Premier Asset	17	− 1½	...	59.9
3	2½	3.15	Prestbury Leis	2½	...	16.0	10.1
590	540	11.10	Preston Nth E	550	...	...	...
104½	102½	16.80	Primary Hlth Pr	103½	...	1.4	...
590	295	83.10	Prism Rail	390	− 5	...	...
127½	115½	21.10	Q Group	126½	+ 1½	...	...
1265	945	277.60	Ramco Egy	1087½	+ 70	0.1	...
110½	77½	11.60	Raphael Zrn	107½	+ 5	2.3	9.7
127½	94½	18.30	Recycling Serv	112½	...	3.6	...
131½	106½	9.99	Reflec	131½	...	...	...
6	4¼	3.64	Revelation Plc	5¾	...	1.7	7.8
45	17½	26.40	Riceman Insce	40	− 1	...	...
80½	77½	4.03	Romtec	77½	...	2.5	...
2¼	2	3.46	Rushmere Wynne	2¼	...	...	...
0¾	0¾	0.07	Rush Wyn Wts	0¾	...	...	..
155½	152½	17.90	SCI Ent	153½	...	...	...
42½	24½	5.54	SEA Multimedia	24½	...	...	...
75½	62½	6.96	Sanctuary Music	72½	− 3	...	9.4
12½	5½	0.80	Scotswood Inds	7½	...	8.3	...
60½	42½	13.40	Scott Pride	42½	...	...	...
6	3¾	10.20	Screen	5	...	...	20.6
350	245	11.80	Seafoods	245	+ 2	6.6	14.1
82	72	16.00	Selector	82	...	...	...
30½	22¼	1.31	Self Sealing	22½	...	...	...
177½	154½	8.53	Shellbane	177½	...	2.8	14.5
104½	74½	5.17	Shelton (M)	97½	+ 1	5.4	11.8
16	12½	39.50	Sibir Energy	15½	...	...	...
233½	208½	29.40	Sinclair-Montrs	228½	...	...	...
4½	2¾	7.13	Six Bus Serv	3¾	...	1.9	23.0
1½	1	0.29	Six Bus Wts	1½	...	...	...
3¾	1¼	10.10	Skateboard	1½	− ¼	...	...
105½	102½	10.30	Soccer Inv	103½	...	...	...
84½	80½	5.83	Solid State Sp	80½	...	4.3	13.4
34½	28½	3.38	Soundtracs	33½	...	3.0	19.8
783	619½	176.80	Southern News	730	+ 11	3.1	23.7
72½	65½	14.30	Southern Vectis	72½	...	3.3	15.6
260½	173½	28.10	Staffware	242½	+ 17½	0.5	...
635	427½	98.40	Stanford Rook	510	+ 27½	...	...
177½	127½	11.80	Stentor	167½	− 10	...	...
500	410	68.80	Surrey Fr Inns	500	+ 37½	0.6	34.6
152	127	15.10	Sutton Harbour	151	...	1.0	21.5
22	15½	2.08	Syst Integ Rsch	15½	...	...	...
23	18½	4.54	TDS Circuits	21½	− ¼	...	9.9
97½	67½	13.80	Theo Fennell	85½	− 2	...	22.0
14	9½	20.70	Thomas Potts	11½	− ¼	0.6	...
32½	25½	2.10	Tom Hoskins	27½	...	...	...
158½	147½	23.70	Total Office	147½	...	4.1	9.5
595	375	29.10	TRACKER Netwk	550	+ 15	...	...
120	90	24.80	Tradepoint Fd	115	...	...	...
167	160	5.40	Trinity Care	160	...	3.6	11.5
170	170	1.50	Trinity Care Pf	170	...	5.5	...
60½	33½	181.40	Trocadero	36½	− ½	...	...
40	40	3.65	Univent	40	...	...	21.0
397½	357½	7.08	Utd Auctions	397½	+ 5	2.8	10.8
280	145	15.20	VDC	145	− 10	4.5	11.5
29¾	20¾	74.40	Vocalis Grp	29½	...	0.8	27.2
53	48	91.90	Victory Corp	48½	...	...	...
242½	97½	3.38	Viewinn	112½	...	...	...
240	220	6.62	Voss Net	235	+ 15	...	...
91	51	23.20	Waterfall	86	− 2	...	22.6
34	27	6.22	Watermark	33	...	3.0	11.7
32	9½	6.08	Wedderburn Secs	22	− 1½	...	...
17	1¼	0.30	Wedd Secs Wts	8½	− 2	...	...
7	5	7.90	Weeks Group	6	...	2.7	10.1
115	75	2.90	West 175 Enter	75	− 5	...	...
£200	£180	14.60	West Bromwich	£200	...	...	20.9
12½	11½	6.38	Western Selects	12	...	...	12.9
4½	4½	0.28	Western Sel Wts	4½	...	..	
99½	44½	10.60	Westmount Engy	97½	...		...
89½	80½	3.49	Whitecross	84½			
245	196	31.10	Whitford, Chelsea	196	− 3½	1.5	23.3
70½	45½	7.28	W'chester M Md	51½	− 2	...	
197	168	42.50	World Telecom	197	...	...	...
135	120	4.26	Wyensley Props	135	...	4.3	19.3
12	9	4.97	Xavier Comp	9½	− ½	...	...
157½	130½	6.28	Yeoman	150½	...	...	...
300	290	27.20	Zergo	295	...	...	...
29½	14½	3.34	Zicor Mining	14½	...	...	74.1

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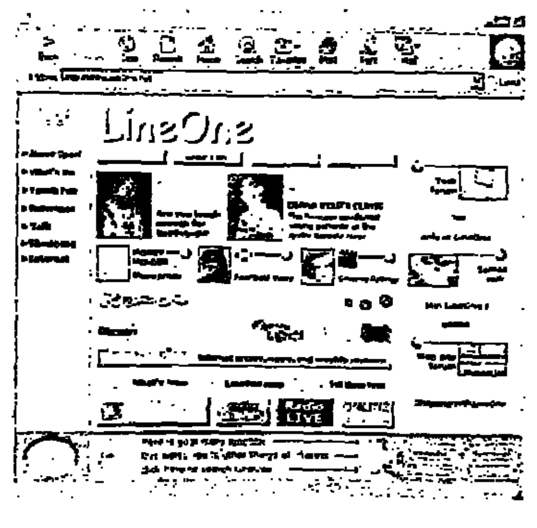

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OFT forces lender to alter policy on penalties

By Gavin Lumsden

CITY Mortgage Corporation, the US firm that specialises in lending to people on low incomes with poor credit ratings, has bowed to pressure from the Office of Fair Trading and is to stop levying excessively high penalties when loans are ended early.

The company has told the OFT that it will abandon its use of rule 78 from August 1. This rule, which was originally designed for short-term unsecured loans, has been exploited by several mortgage lenders when calculating redemption penalties.

CMC has been known to charge borrowers of £30,000 a total of £42,000 for leaving the loan in the first year. It said that it would probably replace this with a penalty of six months' interest.

Bridgeman: warning letter

CMC's move follows a warning in February from John Bridgeman, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, to 50 lenders and brokers that he would revoke their credit licences if they continued to mislead borrowers. CMC, the largest lender in what is known as the sub-prime market, was widely believed to have been the focus of his attention.

In addition to rule 78, Mr Bridgeman was concerned about the high rates of undisclosed commission paid to brokers and the use of dual interest rates by lenders. These can double the amount borrowers have to pay if they default by just one day. CMC would not comment on whether it would change these provisions.

However, David Milton, a solicitor acting on behalf of the CMC Victims Association, said that the move would not stop legal proceedings against the company if it was not retrospective. He also condemned the company's power to increase the difference between its concessionary and standard rates.

Although it has only 30,000 borrowers, CMC has started 1,212 court hearings against defaulters in the past two years alone. Repossessions have totalled 154, although CMC is waiting to sell a further 108 homes it has seized. Despite this record, the company is still an approved lender on the Government's right-to-buy scheme, which allows council tenants to buy their homes.

Ban on beef fails to slow food exports

By Sarah Cunningham

BRITISH food and drink exports grew to more than £10 billion last year in spite of the ban on selling beef abroad.

Food From Britain, the export marketing consultancy, said that a 1 per cent growth in overseas sales to £10.1 billion during 1996 meant that Britain has retained its sixth place in the international exporters league. It estimates that British food and drink exports have doubled in the past ten years.

Exports to Japan rose 13 per cent, driven by the demand for British pork, prepared cereals and drinks. Germany, one of the country's most worried about BSE, increased its overall imports of British food and drink by 11 per cent while the US dramatically increased its imports of British cheese and beer, leading to a 9 per cent overall increase in food and drink imports.

France remains the largest importer of British food and drink, although its imports fell 2 per cent last year because of the beef ban.

Exports of British cakes, drinks and beers drove much of last year's growth, Food from Britain said. Last year's figures reflect nine months of the beef ban imposed on March 20, 1996. In 1995, beef exports totalled £600 million.

Booksellers urged to use the Internet

By Sarah Cunningham

TRADITIONAL booksellers must put more effort into selling on the Internet if they are to fight off the threats posed by the move into book retailing by supermarkets and by consumers' growing preference for videos, computer games and music, according to a report out today..

Corporate Intelligence on Retailing, the consultancy, says supermarkets now control 6 per cent of the book market, equal to £100 million in sales. Moreover, expenditure on books fell 4 per cent last year at the same time as spending on music, videos, computer games and other software rose 10.4 per cent.

Specialist booksellers who have tried introducing price promotions, larger ranges, instore cafes and reading rooms, have not succeeded in reversing the trend, but Internet booksellers in the US have enjoyed huge success.

The report suggests that books are far better suited to Internet retailing than other products. There is no need to touch or try them on while the Internet's search facilities can help customers seeking a particular book. In the US, Amazon Books has sales of more than $15 million in two years. In the UK, the Internet Bookshop, founded in 1994, is the only Internet-only book retailer. Sales are £568,000 but it still incurs losses.

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6193 (+0.0013)
German mark
2.7421 (-0.0543)
Exchange index
98.0 (-1.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2960.3 (+52.9)
FTSE 100
4630.9 (+175.3)
New York Dow Jones
7169.54 (+98.34)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
19802.78 (+288.03)

Tight Budget and re-entry into the ERM may follow an independent Bank of England

Is Labour aiming for an economic triple whammy?

ROGER BOOTLE

Labour governments have been dogged by sterling crises which rocked them to their foundations — in 1931, 1949, 1967, and 1976. Labour now seems to be faced with the opposite problem, namely a strong pound, but it carries powerful echoes of the past. How can Gordon Brown prevent this Government from foundering on the rock of excessively strong sterling?

The orthodox answer is that he must raise taxes in the coming Budget. Even with effective control ceded to the Bank of England, this should bring about lower interest rates, albeit only lower than they would otherwise have been. I support this case and urge Mr Brown to introduce the most fiscally tight Budget he dares. But there is a potentially serious problem. Exchange rates are not easily forecastable or controllable. The reason is that currency operators are dominated by expectations for the future and these are highly volatile. If a policy change designed to weaken the currency is interpreted as carrying other information about the future that can be taken to favour the currency, then it may rise. This is exactly what happened when exchange controls were abolished in 1979.

It is a real danger with the tight Budget strategy. Consider the fears that have haunted investors over the years about the UK. Even though our performance since we left the ERM in 1992 has been extremely good, investors have been nervous that these gains could be thrown away, particularly under Labour. That is the main reason why they have demanded much higher interest rates on sterling debt than on international equivalents.

Now imagine the reaction of these same sceptical investors to Labour's first Budget. They have recently seen Mr Brown give up control of interest rates. Now they see him raise taxes, not to spend on Labour's pet projects, but rather to reduce borrowing, thereby following the dictates of sound finance and redressing the imbalance in the economy. Meanwhile, he pledges to maintain tight control of public spending and to rely on the radical reform of the welfare state which Labour is planning to release resources from the social security budget to put more money into education. Moreover, in pointed contrast to the situation in most of Britain's competitors, these plans will be pushed through by an extremely powerful Government, unfettered by looming elections, small majorities, doubtful coalitions, or the separation of powers.

Well, what would you do, sell the pound or buy it? There has to be a significant chance that confidence in Britain would be boosted so much that the pound rose. In that case, the squeeze on our manufacturers and exporters would intensify, threatening another currency induced economic disaster for Labour in a year or two.

What is the answer? It is to talk the pound down. Such a policy may already have begun with the Governor of the Bank referring to the level of sterling as "uncomfortable" and the Chancellor saying he favoured a "stable and competitive pound". But whether talk is effective depends on what lies behind it. There are countless examples of massive exchange-rate misalignments, which central banks and governments have been powerless to correct, not to mention Mr Lamont's attempts to keep the pound in the ERM by telling the markets that there was "not a scintilla of doubt" that we would remain in the system. A few days later, we were out.

But there is a key example of talk having a major effect. In 1990, the Treasury seemed to encourage the view that the pound would enter the ERM, but at a higher rate than the one ruling in the markets. It worked. Sterling rose and was then put in at the rate of DM2.95. A similar game could be played now. Last week's story that a Labour source had let it slip that the Government may seek to take sterling back into the ERM at a central rate of DM2.50, may or may not have substance. Whether the slip was intentional or not, Labour may well be drawn inexorably in this direction.

This is how it would work. The markets would be encouraged to believe that we would re-join the ERM under the currently prevailing wide fluctuation bands (15 per cent either side of the central rate), in contrast to the 6 per cent bands when we were last in the system. If we joined at a central rate of DM2.50, then the upper limit would be DM2.90, well above the current rate. By itself, therefore, there is no necessary reason why expectation of ERM re-entry should affect the prevailing market rate at all.

But what information would it convey to the markets? It would say that the upside on the currency was severely limited. At the upper limit to the band, the Bank of England, aided by other central banks, would intervene to sell pounds. Moreover, conscious of the currency constraint, the Bank might have to go softly in raising interest rates.

Most importantly, the Government would have given a clear signal of the exchange rate at which Britain might eventually join EMU, namely DM2.50. If the market took this prospect at all seriously, and frankly it should, then it would have the effect of shifting the current market rate down towards the DM2.50 level. Last week, the markets were shocked by the new Government's boldness. But was that merely stage one? Is Labour planning a triple whammy — Bank independence, a tight Budget and re-entry into the ERM?

THE TIMES

YOU HAVEN'T MISSED THE TRAIN YET.

See page 39 for details.

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الاصل

Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas dance to the Miramax tune in *The English Patient*. The film was funded by the Hollywood company

British film-makers vie to get lottery cash in the can

Eric Reguly on the competition for £156m in Arts Council funding up for grabs in Cannes this week

The Cannes Film Festival is a dizzy blur of parties, stars trying to avoid publicity and star wannabes performing *outrageous acts to achieve the* opposite. The intended purpose of the festival — watching, judging and buying new movies — appears an afterthought.

Fun-loving as they are, the festival's British contingent, comprising hundreds of top *producers, directors,* actors, agents, writers and financiers, came equipped with a different agenda this year. They are in Cannes to learn whether they will be given the opportunity to loosen Hollywood's *grip on the market.*

On Thursday, at 4pm, Charles Denton, chairman of the Arts Council's Lottery Film Advisory Panel, will announce the recipients of as much as £156 million in lottery funds *that will be used to set up* British film studios. Chris *Smith, the new Secretary of* State for National Heritage, is expected to be at his side.

Some 37 British consortiums are bidding for the funds; a maximum of four will win, each taking £39 million. *These four, it is hoped,* will form the backbone of a genuine film industry, one that will keep the jobs and profits in Britain instead of exporting them to America. Janice Hughes, managing director of *Spectrum Strategy Consultants,* adviser to the Studio Pictures consortium, said: "The whole idea is to develop a commercial business here. In the past, it has been a cottage industry and there is an anti-*film attitude in the City.*"

The consensus is that the Brits are great at the creative bits of film-making and lousy at the business end. Take *The English Patient*, winner of nine Oscars. The film had a *British director and* British actors, but it was Miramax, part of the Disney/ABC group, that will reap the profits. Miramax stepped in after the *producers* failed to attract British backing.

The *scenario is repeated on* an alarming scale every year. Almost all of the independent film companies in Britain are small, undercapitalised and *have enormous problems find*ing distributors. In 1996, British films took in only £16 million, or 3.4 per cent, of the £440 million in total domestic box office sales. *Trainspotting* and *Brassed Off* were the only British films in the top 40 list. American films — *Independence Day*, *Evita* and *Toy Story*, among them — occupied the rest of the top slots.

True, 1996 was a bad year but British films never reach double-digit box office shares even in the best years. In 1994, swelled by *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, British films reported domestic box office sales of about £33 million, or 9 per cent of the total.

A typical Hollywood studio can develop, finance, produce and distribute a film. Distribution, domestically and internationally, is the most *important element by far.* A distributor is the film's sales agent. Without a distributor, the film is as good as dead. Imagine Ford or Vauxhall without dealer networks.

George Burger, executive *vice-president of Alliance* Communications, the Canadian film company that will act as Studio Pictures' international distributor if the consortium wins the lottery money, said: "Distribution is the single biggest source of revenue for a picture, and international sales are critical."

Distribution plays another crucial role. Financing is much easier to obtain if a *film's distribution is guaran*teed before its release. More often than not, British films do not have distributors and are starved for financing. To get out of the hole, they sell the international rights to their products for a pittance.

If they are really desperate, *they will sell the national* distribution and video rights as well. The film-maker, as a result, will receive no benefit if the film succeeds. Mr Denton, who is the former head of BBC drama, said: "In these instances you haven't got a business. All you're doing is giving away your assets."

It is unsurprising that big-name distributors, many foreign-owned, are the common element in the lottery bids that seem to have the best chance of striking gold at Cannes. *Studio Pictures, whose backers* include Ewan McGregor — Renton in *Trainspotting* — has recruited Alliance for Canadian and international sales, and Electric Pictures for domestic distribution.

The Film Consortium, which includes Richard Branson's Virgin Cinemas, has signed up Rank for domestic distribution and The Sales Company in the foreign market. *UK Filmworks,* whose point man is Mike Newell, director of *Four Weddings*, has lined up Columbia Tristar for domestic distribution, and Summit Entertainment of Canada elsewhere.

The Double Negative *consortium brings to*gether Working Title Films, producer of *Four Weddings*, and Polygram, one of the world's largest film distributors. The backers of the Partners in Film bid include Elton John's Rocket Pictures, the First Independent distribution company, and the Guinness Mahon merchant bank.

The Arts Council has been attacked by some all-British consortiums for allowing foreign partners such as Alliance, *Polygram and Columbia* Tristar to take part in the lottery race. But the council believes their presence is inevitable and not unwelcome. "We have to recognise that this is an international business," Mr Denton said. "Every consortium has to make British films and not export any benefits outside of the UK."

The formation of consor*tiums will end the practice of* individual film companies competing with each other for scarce funding. The lottery money will help to finance a slate of films. The Arts Council hopes that the new studios, well *financed and ready to* tackle every aspect of film-making, will lure British talent that would otherwise flee to Hollywood.

Profits from the films will be pumped back into the British industry, creating more job opportunities. Studio Pictures, *for example, plans 50 films* over six years if it wins lottery money. It intends to raise more than £3 for every lottery £1, raising the total film budget to about £180 million.

In time, the hope is that the *new studios will grow to the* point that they can break Hollywood's stranglehold on the domestic market and ensure that British films are part of the global viewing diet.

The Americans, of course, are more amused than threatened by the imminent launch *of British studios. They note* that the £39 million to be assigned to each winning consortium is barely enough to finance a single Hollywood blockbuster. The budget for 20th Century Fox's *Titanic*, for *example, is rumoured to be* $180 million.

Jeffrey Berg, chairman of International Creative Management, of Beverly Hills, the world's largest talent agency, said: "This will help the Brit*ish start a studio system, but* it is something they should have done 20 years ago. Hollywood has such a head start."

Hollywood is not trembling with fear, but the consortiums are trembling with excitement. *The novel use of lottery money* will mark a sea change in the development of the British film industry. Mr Denton said: "What we intend to do is provide a structure for the industry and create studios *that have continuity and are* able to work across the whole range of film making."

There is no doubt the British will be hosting the most raucous parties at Cannes on Thursday.

Elton John: backing distribution project

MacGregor as Renton in *Trainspotting*

Melissa: Starts tonight 9.00
A tale of mystery, crime and passion - adapted by Alan Bleasdale from an original story by Francis Durbridge.
4

TELEVISION CHOICE

Help for the technophobic

Computers Don't Bite: The Beginner's Guide
BBC2, 7.30pm

Carol Vorderman hosts a six-part series produced by the *Watchdog* team and aimed at anybody (and that probably means millions of us) who feels nervous about coming to grips with the computer age. Vorderman is joined by Adrian Chiles of *Working Lunch* and the *Watchdog* reporter, Andy Webb, and the emphasis is on the computer's everyday applications. Tonight, Vanessa Feltz who has never had a mobile phone or used the Internet tries both and the flame-haired Anne McKevitt from *Home Front* uses a computer to redesign a couple's living room. Look out in a future programme for the Dorset vicar who improved his parish magazine with a desktop publishing kit and tips from *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

Melissa
Channel 4, 9.00pm

You could hardly find writers more different than Alan Bleasdale, author of disturbing social dramas such as *The Boys From the Blackstuff* and *GBH*, and Francis Durbridge, master of the urbane thriller. But Bleasdale is a Durbridge fan and *Melissa* is his re-working of Durbridge's 1962 BBC serial. It is more a homage than a pastiche, with the first three episodes (of five) forming a prequel to the original story. Admirers of the Durbridge style may miss the rattling pace, the ingenious twists and the famous cliffhangers. There is not even much suspense, at least in the opening episode which charts the shipboard romance of Jennifer Ehle's mesmerising Melissa and Tim Dutton's gallant war reporter. But there is a murder or three to remind us that this is a thriller and, perhaps, to signal more Durbridge-like things to come.

Tales From the Riverbank
BBC2, 9.30pm

"There's a trout out there... nice fish... might just catch it." Thus Geoffrey Palmer, in his lugubriously staccato style, launching a six-part series on angling. Palmer, it emerges, is a dedicated fisherman, though he seems destined not to catch anything. Perhaps this will provide the show with a running gag. *Tales From the Riverbank* calls itself a natural history, so as well as hearing from anglers we are treated to exquisite underwater footage of what they are trying to land. The opening programme, though, is more about people than fish and attempts to express the singular attraction of an activity in which anticipation can be just as exciting as achievement. Among the enthusiasts featured is Bernard Venables of the Mr Crabtree books. He started fishing at the age of six and is still doing so in his 90th year.

Geoffrey Palmer (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Ruby
BBC2, 11.15pm

Ruby Wax has practised her cheeky interviewing technique mainly on location, most famously in the home of the Duchess of York. For this new series of talk shows, going out three nights a week from Monday to Wednesday, she is based in the studio. It may cramp her style a little, but do not bet on it. No more than with *Have I Got News For You* is it possible to say definitely who the guests will be, but the provisional list for the first week suggests that Wax is moving away from the usual run of showbusiness celebrities. Dame Muriel Spark, who rarely gives television interviews, is an intriguing candidate for the Wax treatment, as is another novelist, Janice Galloway. Marianne Faithfull, Eddie Izzard and John Simpson are also pencilled in, while the excitable Lucinda Lambton should provide a specially boisterous encounter.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Grass is Singing
Radio 4, 10.45pm

There are some writers one comes to when their star is in the ascendant and there are others whose work mysteriously passes one by for all too long. I had read nothing by Doris Lessing until her Booker-shortlisted novel *The Good Terrorist* appeared a decade ago. That book showed me what I had been missing but I have still not properly explored the back-catalogue of this marvellously atmospheric writer. So *Book at Bedtime* gets no complaints from me for going back to 1950 for Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*, abridged in ten parts by Pamela Grace. The story of a young white woman living an outwardly comfortable life who becomes obsessed with a black servant is set in Lessing's native Rhodesia.

The Monday Play: Pacific Dreams
Radio 4, 7.45pm

There is a strong impression of the autobiographical in this play by Godfrey Hamilton, though such a conclusion is really only based on the fact that Hamilton moved from Britain to Hawaii in 1988, as does his central character, Hugh, in the play. With a drunken father and a recently terminated gay affair, Hugh is entitled to be bitter about the state of Britain, even if his disillusion sounds extreme. Hugh is essentially looking for Mr Right, but the making of the play is in the sharp observation and the authenticity of the dialogue as Hugh's odyssey takes him to Honolulu via Arizona and Los Angeles. The casting of *The Monday Play* is always top class: Mark Bonnar as Hugh and Mark Pinkosh as Joe shine here. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe and Boy Lard **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** Global Update with Briggy Smale **8.40** Andy Kershaw **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Claire Sturgess **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Alex Lester **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Malcolm Laycock **9.00** Big Band Special **9.30** Hayes over Britain **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine with Diana Madill **12.00** Midday with Mair, *includes at 12.35pm Moneycheck* **2.00** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Great Clubs of Europe **8.00** Parkinson on Sport. *A new series with Michael Parkinson exploring topical sporting issues* **9.00** The Packer Revolution **10.00** News Talk **11.00** News Extra with Valerie Sanderson **12.00** After Hours with Tim Grundy and Linda McDermott **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Uri Geller **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. **6.00am** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Twists of Nature **7.30** Omnibus **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Vintage Chart Show **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Int. Question Time **10.05** Business **10.15** Visions of Reality **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Sport **11.30** Omnibus **12.30pm** Jazz Expo **1.05** Business **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Seven Days **1.45** Sport **2.00** Newshour **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Touched with Fire **3.45** Good Relationship Guide **4.05** Sport **4.15** On Your Behalf **4.30** Tommy Vance **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.15** World Today **6.30** Seven Days **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.30** Counterpoint **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** Multitrack **9.00** Newshour **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Danger Squad **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Multitrack **1.30** Keep to the Path **1.45** Britain Today **2.30** Seven Days **2.45** A Private View **3.30** On Screen **4.05** Business **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **7.00** Mike Read **9.00** Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Cimarosa, arr Benjamin (Oboe Concerto in C minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **5.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight **7.30** Sonata **8.00** Singapore Week Classic Evening Concert. Brahms (Academic Festival Overture); Leong Yoon Pin (Metamorphosis); Traditional (I Wish I Were a Swallow); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 4 in F minor) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Lunchtime Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **6.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Brahms (Cello Sonata No 1 in E minor, Op 38); Field (Piano Concerto No 7 in C); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 20); Respighi (Overture Belfagor); Elgar (Pomp and Circumstance March No 4 in G); Dohnanyi (Violin Concerto No 2 in C minor)
9.00 Morning Collection. Penny Gore continues her survey of music by Berwald. Includes Wagner (Overture Tannhäuser); Schumann (Kinderszenen, Op 15); Berwald (Grand Septet in B flat)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Fiona Talkington. Includes Trad (Bonchidai Rilka Magyar); Kodaly (Hary Janos); Strauss (Andante); Bartok (Folk Songs from Csik); Haydn (Symphony No 60 in C, Il Distratto); Oskar Merikanto (Vallinkorvan Laulu); Bizet (Deux Esquisses Musicales); Beethoven (Horn Sonata No 60 in C); Albrechtsberger (Concerto in E for Jew's Harp and Mandora)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Franz Lehar
1.00pm News; BBC Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Vogler Quartet. Schubert (String Quartet in G, D887)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Mark Wigglesworth. With Steven Isserlis, cello. Verdi (Overture, The Force of Destiny); Shostakovich (Cello Concerto No 1); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor)
3.45 Everything but the Crazyhouse. Russell Davies concludes his six-part series tracing the career of the saxophonist Sidney Bechet. Bechet spent the last part of his life living peacefully in Paris where he won the acclaim and love of the French public
4.15 ***Music Restored.*** Chris de Souza introduces the first concert from this year's Radio 3 Early Music Young Artists Showcase 1997 given last month at the Royal Academy of Music. The Passacaglia Ensemble performs chamber music by Handel, Telemann and Boismortier
5.00 The Music Machine. Tommy Pearson investigates the world of morris dancing
5.15 In Tune, with Jeremy Nicholas. Includes Handel (Let Their Celestial Concerts All Unite, Samson); Reger (Improvisation on the Blue Danube Waltz); Poulenc (Organ Concerto in G minor)
7.30 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, under Tan Dun, Valdine Anderson, soprano. Chou Wen-chung (Echoes from the Gorge); Dun (Circle with Four Trios); Varese (Offrandes); Dun (Death and Fire)
9.00 Conversations with Charles Rosen. *The pianist* and critic Charles Rosen celebrates his 70th birthday later this month, and in the first of five illustrated conversations with Ivan Hewitt, he talks about his teacher Moriz Rosenthal
9.20 Brahms. Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Op 115. With Emma Johnson, clarinet, and the Delme Quartet (r)
10.00 Voices. Iain Burnside presents a programme of songs by Delius, Stenhammer and Sibelius in a concert given in 1992 at the Wigmore Hall in London by the soprano Barbara Bonney and the pianist Geoffrey Parsons
10.45 Mixing It. Mark Russell and Robert Sandall present a unique blend of musical styles and influences
11.30 Composer of the Week: Sibelius (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Richard Niles presents the first of a week-long series featuring the BBC Big Band. Tonight they are in session with the drummer Danny Gottlieb
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, *includes* Thought for the Day **8.40** A Moment's Liberty. Extracts from the diaries of Virginia Woolf, abridged and read by Eileen Atkins (1/5) **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with *Times* columnist Melvyn Bragg and his guests
10.00 ***News; With Great Pleasure (FM).*** The actor Tim Pigott-Smith presents a selection of his favourite writing. With readings by Pamela Miles and Nicholas Farrell (5/6)
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with *Jenni Murray.* Includes the author Rose Tremain talking about masquerade in literature as she describes how she authentically wrote like a 13-year-old
11.30 Money Box Live. Personal finance news presented by Vincent Duggleby
12.00 News; ***You and Yours.*** Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Brain of Britain. The first round of the nationwide general knowledge quiz reaches the Midlands and East Anglia. Chaired by Robert Robinson **12.55** Weather
1.00 ***The World at One,*** with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55 Shipping Forecast**
2.00 News; Cutting Edge. The last part of John Harvey's dramatisation of his novel starring Tom Georgeson as the jazz-loving DI Resnick. With Sean Baker and Kate Eaton (r)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor and the guests of the day
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker sees the Siobhan Davies Dance Company in Liverpool and talks to the jazz musician Carla Bley
4.45 Short Story: Special Expressions. Written and read by Eva Tucker. The story of the experiences of a young Jewish girl during the festivals of the 1930s in Berlin
5.00 PM, with Kevin Bocquet and Chris Lowe **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 The News Quiz. Chaired by Simon Hoggart. *With the panelists* Nick Clarke, Francis Wheen, Nick Revell and *Times* columnist Alan Coren (r)
7.00 News 7.05 ***The Archers***
7.20 The Food Programme. Another dip into the culinary universe with Derek Cooper (r)
7.45 ***The Monday Play: Pacific Dreams.*** See Choice
9.15 Travels with a Tape Recorder. The second of three programmes in which James McNeish looks back on his extensive travels during the early 1960s. Tonight he recalls a visit to the shrine of the Black Madonna in central Poland (r)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Grass is Singing. Read by Janet Suzman. See Choice (1/10)
11.00 The Heritage Quiz. Sue McGregor puts questions to Christopher Cook, *Philippa Gregory,* Janet Suzman and Martin Wainwright (r)
11.30 Firefly Summer. Jane Cassidy's dramatisation of the *novel by Maeve Binchy. An American arrives in* the town of Mountfern determined to discover his ancestry. Starring David Soul, Anna Healy and *Lorcan Cranitch* (1/6) (r)
12.00 News incl 12.27am approx Weather
12.30am Late Book: Behind the Scenes at the Museum. Kate Atkinson's award-winning novel. Read by Patricia Hodge (6/10) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; *LW* 198; *MW* 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thompson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Degradation, death, destruction: such fun

Definitely not a good weekend for culture, I'm afraid. Nobody turned up to see the Bolshoi dance, the Venice Opera House stood in smouldering ruins and the new, big budget drama from the BBC... turned out to be full of comedians. A disaster for culture vultures then, but for sofa philistines it proved something of a treat.

Last night's **Dancing for Dollars** (Channel 4) was a special delight, suffering from none of the drawbacks that normally afflict ballet documentaries, such as, er, ballet. This — to embrace the vernacular — was the story of a cultural cock-up, how the Bolshoi Ballet went to Las Vegas and discovered that nobody wanted to see them. It was almost as much fun as *The House*, the wickedly intrusive series about the Royal Opera House.

"We sold 44 ****** tickets today," fumed Ed Martin, a man surely destined to walk away with the prize for the world's most unlikely ballet impresario. Only a handful of delicious minutes earlier he had been all-American enthusiasm. "Everyone wants to see greatness — whether it's Superbowl, the Olympics or ballet." A loyal band of investors from deepest, darkest Oklahoma were right behind him, to the tune of $1.8 million. They didn't know much about ballet but they had been to a couple of great ice-skating shows. "If it was anything like that we thought we would surely enjoy it," said one elderly woman who gamely pitched up to watch her savings disappear in a flurry of furious subtitles.

"Where are the instruments?" "Where is the orchestra pit?" "Where is the set?" asked a succession of cross-looking Russians. Meanwhile, back in the booking office, Martin was already praying for a miracle. "If I don't pay them, the little shits will not perform in Los Angeles."

Opinion was split as to what precisely the problem was. As archive footage of earlier sell-out successes compounded the damage, the managing director of the Bolshoi blamed the decadence of Las Vegas: "Sitting down all day, pressing buttons — that's not culture, it's degradation." Martin, by contrast, was fast coming to the conclusion that the American public were far more discerning than even he had given them credit for. They knew the Bolshoi was not what it had been. "People believe this is the bullshit Bolshoi, not the real deal."

The local stage manager was, diplomatically, somewhere in between. "We had no class before, we've got a little bit now." His recipe for commercial success? "If there was a nude ballet, we wouldn't have a theatre big enough." Hold that thought, because somehow it leads us to **Jonathan Creek** (BBC1, Saturday).

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

It took up where *Crime Traveller* left off (it's possible that the respective heroines even share the same mansion block), as an offbeat drama considered sufficiently undemanding to get 11 million or so of us through Saturday night. But unlike its predecessor, it had a certainty of purpose and a sureness of execution that means, in the looking-glass world of television ratings, it probably won't. So, as insurance, the producers made this feature-length, opening episode rather rude. The fact that I thought it was also rather good is, of course, entirely unrelated.

The victim (it was Saturday night, there had to be a victim) was Hedley Shale (Colin Baker) an artist who conveniently specialised in the female nude, which meant the production could be littered with eye-catching canvases and glamorous models. Someone had shot him and if I tell you that the woman who did it wore only a silk blouse and a revolver that rather captures the lubricious style of Marcus Mortimer's direction. A kiss was not a greeting unless it was accompanied by a fondled bosom, a revolver not a revolver unless it was fired by toes attached to a very, very long pair of legs.

Now, all this enjoyable but gratuitous titillation may have been to make up for the essentially untitillating nature of our central couple (it was Saturday night, there had to be a central couple). Caroline Quentin and Alan Davies may be many things but conventionally sexy they are not, and for some time it looked like we might get through an enjoyable whodunit without any of that unresolved sexual tension stuff at all. But then David Renwick's otherwise-inspired typewriter ran away with him and, before we knew it, our couple were enjoying a significant moment over the levitation board.

With two comedians in the central roles, the producers wisely packed the cast with established character actors: Baker (who despite his early exit managed to regenerate himself in time for last night's instalment of *The Knock*), Sheila Gish as his magnificently fearsome wife and Anthony Head as a lascivious, bosom-fondling magician. But Quentin and Davies more than held their own in such company, with Davies in particular turning in a nicely understated performance as the trick-designing, windmill-dwelling Creek. Helped by Julian Stewart Lindsay's catchy reworking of Saint-Saëns's *Danse Macabre*, a promising start.

Until last night, my sum total of knowledge about La Fenice, Venice, was that it was burnt down last year, possibly by the Mafia. That remained the sum total of my knowledge for about 23 minutes of the distinctly unrevealing **The Works: A Death In Venice** (BBC2), when the building contractors — allegedly anxious to avoid fines for late completion — were added to the list of suspects. What else? A violinist played hauntingly amid the no-longer smouldering ruins — but we philistines knew that was going to happen.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (48183)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (36251)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (3133676)
9.20 Style Challenge (6677893)
9.45 Kilroy (7922541)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (88541)
11.00 News (T) and weather (7773386)
11.05 The Great Escape Magazine focusing on the real-life experiences of holidaymakers (7130386)
11.35 Change That from Glasgow (6341760)
12.00 News (T) and weather (8300657)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (8048763)
12.35 Going for a Song A new series of the antiques panel game (9489763)
1.00 News (T) and weather (46638)
1.30 Regional News (86723676)
1.40 The Weather Show (99992763)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (40812305)
2.10 Quincy (6651367)
2.55 Through the Keyhole with Paul Ross and Lorraine Chase (6310560)
3.20 Skepper on Style Recreate Victorian interior design (6454831)
3.30 Playdays (8273831) **3.50** Monster Cafe (6794725) **4.05** The New Yogi Bear Show (5633473) **4.10** Casper (4157015) **4.35** 50/50 (9526980) **5.05** Newsround (T) (5964657) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (6329589)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (203855)
6.00 News (T) and weather (265)
6.30 Regional News (367)
7.00 Auntie's TV Favourites Griff Rhys Jones discusses his career; Jimmy Hill looks forward to the FA Cup Final; Tony Blackburn pays homage to *Hi-De-Hi!*; a visit with Sir Jimmy Savile (T) (6560)
7.30 Here and Now Investigation into the unacceptable level of violence faced by nursing staff in hospital accident and emergency departments, and a profile of Britain's only remaining lighthouse keeper as he prepares to leave his post once and for all (T) (251)
8.00 EastEnders Bianca is shocked when she pays Joe a visit and Grant tells Lorraine of his plans to play happy families (T) (2980)
8.30 Only Fools and Horses One of Del's old flames turns up out of the blue. Will the flames of love reignite or will Rodney and Grandad extinguish any passion? (r) (T) (1015)
9.00 News (T) and weather (2657)
9.30 Panorama: Water Torture Michael Robinson asks who is to blame for the water crisis and challenges those who run the industry to defend their record (T) (424589)
10.10 Alive (1992) FILM with Ethan Hawke and Vincent Spano. A grim, fact-based drama about a group of South American youngsters who survive a plane crash in the Andes and endure unspeakable hardships when the search party is called off. Directed by Frank Marshall (1052183)
12.10 Absent Without Leave (1992) FILM Craig McLachlan stars as a soldier who goes AWOL during the Second World War. Directed by John Laing (329831)
1.15am Weather (4646110)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

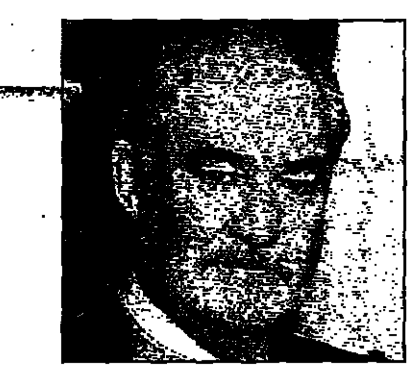
6.00am Open University: Images of Education (8492831) **6.25** Rich Mathematical Activities (T) (8488638) **6.50** *Play and the Social World* (T) (8962251) **7.15** News (3854541) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (8076893) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (1166251) **8.20** Bump (3175522) **8.25** Open a Door (r) (6389102) **8.35** Raccoons (r) (3267725) **9.00** TV6 (97299) **9.30** Ici Paris (7516928) **9.45** Watch Out (7504183) **10.00** Teletubbies (21831) **10.30** *Go for it!* (4768367) **10.50** Look and Read Special (4771831) **11.10** Zig Zag (6636725) **11.30** Ghostwriter (2102) **12.00** Teaching Today (54873)
12.30pm Working Lunch (37305)
1.00 History File (22371638) **1.25** Landmarks (70520251) **1.45** Storytime (86700725) **2.00** Bump (30095928) **2.05** Open a Door (30094299) **2.10** Alias Smith and Jones (7340560) **3.00** News (T) (6458657) **3.05** The Phil Silvers Show (7165909) **3.30** Blockbusters (2488893) **3.55** News (T) (5537831) **4.00** Blockbusters (5514980) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (5524367)
4.55 Esther: Meeting the Queen Mother Anecdotes (1412893) **5.30** Today's the Day (744)
6.00 The Simpsons (T) (476134)
6.25 Space Precinct (r) (T) (684657)
7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show (T) (404386)

Carol Vorderman (7.30pm)

7.30 Computers Don't Bite: The Beginner's Guide A new six-part series presented by Carol Vorderman. Tonight, Anne McKevitt puts a home decorating software package through its paces (T) (893)
8.00 Top Gear Motorsport The Prodrive's new Subaru rally car; motorcycle world championship in Luxembourg and the search for Britain's rising stars in junior single-seated formula racing (T) (9562)
8.30 The Antiques Show Monty Don joins a group of antique buyers in Paris; a guide to buying at auction; teenage collectors with a passion for antiques (T) (9657)
9.00 Till Death Us Do Part (r) (8909)
9.30 Tales from the Riverbank Go fishing with Geoffrey Palmer (17541)
10.00 Game On Comedy series (78164)
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (175763)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (365657)
11.15 Ruby A new, thrice-weekly chat show with Ruby Wax (690015)
11.55 The Phil Silvers Show (r) (153164)
12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: Outsiders In — Muslims In Europe (42508) **1.30** Picasso's Collages (96357) **2.00** Nightschool TV: Cats' Eyes (65431) **4.00** BBC Focus: Italia 2000 (21416) **4.30** Royal Institution Discourse (23665) **5.30** RCN Nursing Update (16394)

[illegible]

6.00am GMTV (4786034)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (r) (T) (6685812)
9.55 Regional News (3010947)
10.00 The Time, the Place (25657)
10.30 This Morning (62939218)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (8399541)
12.30 News (T) and weather (9475560)
12.55 The Pulse (9450251)
1.25 Home and Away (T) (70548657)
1.50 Danielle Steel's Palomino FILM with Lee Horsley, Lindsay Frost and Eva Marie Saint. Romantic drama about a successful female photographer (3021638)
3.20 News (T) (6465947) **3.25** Regional News and weather (6464218)
3.30 Tots TV (r) (6718305) **3.40** Caribou Kitchen (7339812) **3.50** Cartoon Time (7335096) **4.00** Scooby Doo (5541034) **4.25** The Famous Five (T) (4147638) **4.50** The Big Bang (T) (1804522)
5.10 Sorted Magazine series focusing on teenagers problems (T) (7038473)
5.40 News (T) and weather (260183)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (768676)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (371580)
6.25 HTV Weather (920589)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (763)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Featuring Kenya, the medieval German towns of Hamburg and Lübeck, and the Abaco Islands in the Bahamas (T) (8928)
7.30 Coronation Street Alma gets herself a new job (T) (947)
8.00 World in Action A report on the vigilante mobs who are taking the law into their own hands to control paedophiles in their midst (T) (7676)
8.30 The Freddie Starr Show Slapstick comedy and sketches with the unpredictable funnyman (T) (6183)



Ethical dilemma for Robert (9.00pm)

9.00 Bramwell Marsham learns his wife has breast cancer (T) (5305)
10.00 News (T) and weather (11198)
10.30 Regional News (T) (763305)
10.40 The West Story A focus on local life (830386)
11.40 Hunter The adventures a plain-clothes detective and his female partner (r) (766522)
12.40am Empire City (1991) FILM with Michael Pare, Mary Mara and Beau Starr. Contemporary film noir about an unorthodox, streetwise detective who is paired with a new female partner to solve a murder investigation. Directed by Mark Rosner (4349787)
2.05 Mainly Men (r) (4880961)
2.35 Club Nation (r) (T) (7347394)
3.35 God's Gift (r) (3167400)
4.35 World in Action (r) (T) (7292666)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (43023)
5.30 News (16348)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9450251)
1.50 Blue Heelers (8815251)
2.50-3.20 High Road (2702589)
3.50 Cartoon Time (7335096)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7038473)
6.25-7.00 Central News (934164)
10.40 Film: The Island (31070831)
12.45am War of the Worlds (433619)
1.45 Stand and Deliver (422503)
2.45 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (8901874)
3.10 Film: The Lost Hours (6816771)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Home and Away (9450251)
1.25 High Road (22376183)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8823270)
2.50-3.20 Westcountry Update (2702589)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7038473)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (68562)
10.30 Westcountry News (754657)
10.45 A Tale of Three Farms (793305)
11.15 Love at First Sight (790218)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (706247)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9450251)
1.50 At Home with Maggie Philbin (40895638)
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (7992683)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7038473)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (183)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (763)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (754657)
10.45 The Pier (250980)
11.10 The Listings (172299)
11.15 Swift Justice (160299)
12.10am Meridian Focus (2666868)
5.00 Freescreen (43023)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9450251)
1.50 Blue Heelers (8815251)
2.50-3.20 Crawshaw Paints Constable Country (2702589)
3.50 Bugs Bunny Disney Cartoon (7335096)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7038473)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (934164)
10.40 Post-Election Political Debate (830386)
11.40 Highlander (766522)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (31893) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69589) **9.00 Bewitched** (82367) **9.30 Ysgolion** (796305) **12.00 Right to Reply** (95831) **12.30pm Montel Williams** (22473) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (27928152) **1.15 Smot y Ci** (22978657) **1.30 Islanders** (80258541) **1.50 Film: Next to No Time** (46160657) **3.30 Collector's Lot** (541) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (676) **4.30 Garden Party** (560) **5.00 5 Pump** (4536473) **5.10 Ffeil** (4532657) **5.20 Gogs** (5952812) **5.30 Countdown** (812) **6.00 Newyddion** (635909) **6.05 Heno** (771706) **6.35 Sion a Sian** (997251) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (125367) **7.25 Tara Naw** (688893) **8.00 Clwb Garddio** (5218) **8.30 Newyddion** (4725) **9.00 Valley Girls** (497909) **9.35 C U Burn** (927893) **10.05 Sgorio** (761522) **11.05 Planet Showbiz** (127589) **11.35 Film: Maximum Overdrive** (649947) **1.25am NBA Raw** (5813787)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (31893) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (69589) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (82367)
9.30 Schools: Geography Junction **9.45** Book Box **10.00** Stage Two Science **10.15** Schools at Work **10.20** *Off the Walls* **10.40** The English Programme **11.05** Encyclopedia Galactica **11.15** The Mix **11.30** Rat-A-Tat-Tat **11.45** Living and Growing (796305)
12.00 Right to Reply (r) (T) (95831)
12.30pm Light Lunch (25299)
1.30 Man on a Tightrope (1953) FILM with Fredric March, Gloria Grahame and Terry Moore. Cold War drama about a circus owner in Eastern Europe determined to escape to the West with his troupe. Directed by Elia Kazan (T) (35812)
3.30 Collector's Lot (T) (541) **4.00** Fifteen-To-One (T) (676) **4.30** Countdown (T) (560) **5.00** Montel Williams (T) (9034) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (812)
6.00 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (T) (725)
6.30 Hollyoaks Ruth regrets her hasty words (T) (305)
7.00 Channel Four News (T) (626928)
7.50 Rhyme and Reason A short season of poems relating to science (T) (824386)
8.00 Mrs Cohen's Money: Savings (5/6) Bernice Cohen looks at how to prepare for a financially secure retirement. She examines tax-exempt schemes, takes advice on pre-packaged policies and meets a couple who have taken out one of the most expensive pension plans on the market (T) (5218)
8.30 The Entertainers (4/5) Twenty-year-old singer Tara Lee contemplates her first professional performance and Lynn and Perry do their final show (T) (4725)

Tim Dutton and Jennifer Ehle (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Melissa** (1/5) Alan Bleasdale's murder mystery about a war correspondent who falls for a mysterious woman. With Jennifer Ehle, Tim Dutton and Adrian Dunbar. Continues tomorrow (T) (7457270)
10.25 Dark Skies Aliens infiltrate the anti-Vietnam movement (T) (931454)
11.25 Cheers Carla disapproves of Eddie's new skating partner (r) (T) (100812)
11.55 NBA Raw Playoff action (793676)
12.55am NYPD Blue Simone investigates a bomber (r) (T) (7021955)
1.45 10-7 for Life Following Carol Banks as she prepares to leave the Toronto police after 15 years service (r) (5240077)
2.50 My Learned Friend (1943, b/w) FILM Black farce starring and directed by Will Hay. A former convict decides to murder all those responsible for his incarceration. With Mervyn Johns (5391394)
4.10 Watching the Detectives (r) (T) (5519597) **5.10** There Lived a Man Called Kozyavin (8031313) **5.20** Backdate (r) (T) (9900348)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (8899763)
7.30 Havakazoo (5644183) **8.00** Adventures of the Bush Patrol (8594305)
8.30 WideWorld Examining Minitel, the unique French forerunner of the Internet, interactive systems and teleshopping (8593676)
9.00 Espresso (2531928) **10.00** Exclusive (7101541) **10.30** Attractions (r) (8573812)
11.00 Leeza (9240812) **11.50** Double Espresso (34541102) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8564164) **12.30am** Family Affairs (r) (T) (4676183)
1.00 5 News Update (49992102) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (3653725) **2.00** 5's Company (7175454)
3.30 Wuthering Heights (1970) FILM with Anna Calder-Marshall, Timothy Dalton, Pamela Browne and Harry Andrews. Handsome but hurried adaptation of Emily Brontë's tale of doomed love. Directed by Robert Fuest (8860251)
5.30 100 Per Cent (9346305)
6.00 Whittle (T) (9343218)
6.30 Family Affairs Annie discovers some money is missing from the petty cash (T) (9327270)
7.00 Exclusive Showbiz gossip (7962021)
7.30 Animal Omens: Birds of Ill Omen A study of the rook (T) (9323454)

Presenter Sandy Mitchell (8pm)

8.00 Hot Property Sandy Mitchell guides a retired couple through the property market (7162229)
8.30 5 News (8617314)
9.00 Return of the Swamp Thing (1989) FILM with Louis Jordan, Heather Locklear and Dick Durock. Science fiction thriller about a mad genetic scientist and the half-man, half-vegetable that he creates. Directed by Jim Wynorski (2247299)
10.30 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment Comedy improv show with Graham Norton (8574541)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (5999980)
11.40 We Know Where You Live Comedy sketches and spoofs with Simon Pegg (5317589)
12.10am Live and Dangerous Through-the-night sports magazine presented by Dominik Diamond and Trish Adudu. Includes at 2.00 coverage of the Winter X-Games (91370067)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4168481)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2416665)

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (186298) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (42544) **10.00** Another World (93560) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (80096) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (63744) **1.00pm** Geraldo (49184) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (46164) **3.00** Jenny Jones (72926) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey Show (84763) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (3015) **6.00** Real TV (9305) **6.30** Married — with Children (9137) **7.00** The Simpsons (4744) **7.30** M*A*S*H (9541) **8.00** Star Trek: Voyager (72265) **9.00** Poltergeist: The Legacy (84251) **10.00** Nash Bridges (94638) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (41819) **12.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (44145) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (32868) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9201077)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (3376270) **7.30** Superboy (3163812) **8.00** Love and Betrayal: The Mia Farrow Story (7306386) **10.00** The Outer Limits (7385893) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (4235657) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (4492058)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour. 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Jules Verne's 800 Leagues Down the Amazon (1994) (29541) **7.30 Tender Is the Night (1961)** (756812) **10.00 The Skateboard Kid (1993)** (60589) **11.30 The Hasty Heart (1983)** (482725) **2.00pm The Lies Boys Tell (1994)** (66251) **3.30 Jules Verne's 800 Leagues Down the Amazon (1994)** (15096) **5.00 The Skateboard Kid (1993)** (30928) **7.00 Little Big League (1994)** (80473) **9.00 Congo (1995)** (82270) **11.00 Heavy (1995)** (390034) **12.50am Object of Obsession (1994)** (217400) **2.25 The Unspoken Truth (1995)** (5273481) **3.55 Solitaire for Two (1994)** (922787) **5.35 Tender Is the Night (1961)** (86841597)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Ghost Ship (1943) (8778367) **7.15 I Walked with a Zombie (1943)** (4888386) **8.30 My Little Pony: The Movie (1986)** (21003) **10.00 The Treasure of Pancho Villa (1955)** (47537367) **11.50 Never Give Up: The Jimmy V Story (1996)** (38223473) **1.25pm The Battle of the Villa Fiorita (1965)** (98231454) **3.15 Red Tape (1995)** (9596473) **4.30 Bermuda Triangle (1996)** (83270) **6.00 Alone in the Woods (1995)** (19183) **7.30 El Features** (2251) **8.00 Sins of Silence (1996)** (91541) **10.00 Bad Boys (1995)** (64909) **12.00 Bitter Vengeance (1994)** (346706) **1.35am Past Tense (1994)** (111313) **3.10 Puppetmaster V (1994)** (4971685) **4.35 The Black Tulip (1988)** (7002787)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm The Major and the Minor (1942) (2002164) **8.00 The Squeeze (1987)** (2014909) **10.00 Top Gun (1986)** (4698367) **11.55 Two Minute Warning (1976)** (5341909) **1.50am Queens Logic (1991)** (6377665) **3.45-5.35 Heaven Knows, Mr Allison (1957)** (4827232)

TNT

9.00pm Katharine Hepburn: All About Me (90905744) **10.20 Woman of the Year (1942)** (56526541) **12.15am Sunday in New York (1963)** (28246938) **2.15-5.00 Some Came Running (1958)** (76811961)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sunday League Cricket (70980) **8.30** Racing News (50305) **9.00** World of Speed and Beauty (41657) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (87947) **10.00** Watersports World (48034) **11.00** Live Benson and Hedges Cup Cricket (3949909) **7.00pm** Sports Centre (2928) **7.30** Futbol Mundial (4831) **8.00** A Season to Remember: How the Premiership Was Won 1996-1997 (48015) **10.00** Sports Centre (22522) **10.30** Benson and Hedges Cup Cricket (89102) **12.00** Sports Centre (99819) **12.30am** A Season to Remember: How the Premiership Was Won 1996-1997 (13400) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (35110)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Skif Sailing (15264893) **12.30pm** Football Special (32749657) **3.00** Women's Tennis: Italian Open (85706522) **6.00** Watersports World (90617831) **6.00** The Winning Post Live (37546812) **8.00** Woman's Golf (37546541) **9.00** Wrestling: In Your House (37556928) **11.00-11.30** Football Hall of Fame (69720560)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Mountain Bike (60812) **8.30** Cycling (25015) **9.30** Athletics (86102) **11.00** Judo (88305) **12.30pm** IndyCar (82170) **2.00** Live Tennis (4132928) **6.00** Speedworld (66015) **7.30** Live Tennis (582541) **10.00** Football (50218) **11.00-12.30** Snooker (29831)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (8281657) **7.35** Neighbours (8675980) **8.00** Crossroads (8385893) **8.25** EastEnders (4860218) **9.00** The Bill (7262725) **9.30** Don't Wait Up (4409657) **10.00** Robin's Nest (4356928) **10.30** The Sullivans (7268909) **11.00** Casualty (48076229) **12.05pm** Crossroads (86913473) **12.30** Neighbours (4403473) **1.00** EastEnders (8060305) **1.35** Dick Emery Show (7567183) **2.15** Fairly Secret Army (2220164) **2.50** 'Allo 'Allo! (3087096) **3.30** The Bill (3395164) **4.00** Boon (3809763) **5.00** Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game (83421812) **6.05** EastEnders (7323170) **6.40** Sykes (6191744) **7.20** Russ Abbot (2251909) **8.00** Wowfabgroovy (4783251) **8.30** Lynda La Plante's Framed (3873522) **10.30** The Bill (7265454) **11.05** Minder (4699299) **12.05am** Spitting Image (8649787) **12.35 FILM: Another Woman** (85307503) **2.05** Shopping (53969771)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (4595034) **7.00** Classic Coronation St (6431387) **7.30** Families (6443102) **8.00** Surprise, Surprise (1583676) **9.00** The Professionals (7572305) **10.00** Richard and Judy Exclusive (8407298) **10.30** Doctor on the Go (9658831) **11.00** Within These Walls (6429522) **12.00** Classic Coronation St (9849183) **12.30pm** Families (1903283) **1.00** Crown Court (6430638) **1.30** The Good Life Guide (2353724) **2.00** A Family at War (9408928) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (9686270) **4.00** Surprise, Surprise (9607305) **5.00** The Professionals (3839015) **6.00** Families (2492763) **6.30** Classic Coronation St (2483015) **7.00** Surprise, Surprise (6754763) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (6730183) **9.00** Classic Coronation St (9803589) **9.30** The Comedians (1808639) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (6753034)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (6128541) **6.25** Quack Attack (6147678) **6.50** Bonkers (5740386) **7.15** Little Mermaid (3542314) **7.40** Aladdin (4229947) **8.05** Quack Pack (2402102) **8.30** Goof Troop ([illegible]) [illegible] Care Bears (4484725) **9.25** Pooh Corner (4496560) **9.50** Muppet Babies ([illegible]) **10.15** Grounding Marsh ([illegible]) [illegible] Sing Me a Story (1190744) **11.05** Mouse and Mole (2699454) **11.10** Big Garage (4209783) **11.25** Lamb Chop [illegible] **11.55** Fraggle Rock (8468164) [illegible] Timon and Pumbaa (7752098) [illegible] Boy Meets World (9908744) **1.05** Timon and Pumbaa (68071299) **1.15** Mouse [illegible] (125960) **1.45** Aladdin ([illegible]) [illegible] Goof Troop (24369034) **2.35** [illegible] (6745582) **3.00** Quack Attack [illegible] **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa ([illegible]) [illegible] Little Mermaid (8487102) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (5352454) **4.10** Goof Troop (6955947) **4.30** Every Day's a C[illegible] (6838) **5.00** Aladdin (7984522) **5.**[illegible] Timon and Pumbaa (3343116) **5.35** Mighty Ducks (995357) **6.00** New Doug (4201) [illegible] Boy Meets World (1183) **7.00** Brotherly Love (5270) **7.30 FILM: Escape to Witch Mountain** (27560) **9.00** Bone Chillers (68783) **9.30-10.00** Life's Work ([illegible])

Katharine Hepburn is *Woman of the Year* (TNT, 10.20pm)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (9435[illegible]) [illegible] Inspector Gadget (9754947) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats ([illegible]) **7.30** Alien Rangers ([illegible]) [illegible] Beetleborgs (2496251) [illegible] **9.00** Rimbas Island ([illegible]) [illegible] The Magic Box ([illegible]) [illegible] Dudley the Dragon ([illegible]) [illegible] Rimbas Island (8649218) [illegible] The Magic Box ([illegible]415386) **11.00** Jin Jin and the Panda Patrol (6661980) **11.30** [illegible] **12.00** Inspector Gadget ([illegible]) [illegible] VR Troopers ([illegible]) [illegible] Alien Rangers (8371096) [illegible] ([illegible]1541) **1.30** Eek! Stravaganza ([illegible]) [illegible] Life with Louie ([illegible]) [illegible] (3182947) **3.00** [illegible] **3.30** Eek! Stravaganza ([illegible]) [illegible] Life with Louie ([illegible]) [illegible] Alien Rangers (3162183) [illegible] (3396034) **5.30** [illegible] **6.00** X Men [illegible] Goosebumps

TCC

6.00am Road to Avonlea (77657) **7.00** Dennis the Menace ([illegible]80) **8.00** Batman ([illegible]) [illegible] Art Attack (72541) **9.00** Flash Gordon ([illegible]) [illegible] Bobby's World ([illegible]) [illegible] Creepy Crawlers (28305) [illegible] Robinson Sucroe (92305) **11.00** [illegible] **11.30** Gravedale High (52102) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (83657) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (10299) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (34454) **1.30** The New Adventures of Black Beauty (37170) **2.00** The Girl from Tomorrow (4928) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (2676) **3.00** Art Attack (6763) **3.30** Flash Gordon (4893) **4.00** Batman (3928) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (2812)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula (61560) **6.30** Rocko (69229) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (38657) **7.30** Rugrats (17164) **8.00** Doug (59676) **8.30** Arthur (58947) **9.00** CBBC (47980) **10.00** Wimzie's House (81251) **10.30** Babar (38183) **11.00** Magic School Bus (13299) **11.30** Mr Men/King Rollo/Barney/Topsy and Tim/Skylark (14928) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (52763) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (89305) **1.00** CBBC (77560) **2.00** Dr Seuss (9454) **2.30** Kassyfur (1980) **3.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (8589) **3.30** Bruno the Kid (3725) **4.00** Jumanji (5560) **4.30** Rugrats (1744) **5.00** Sister Sister (3034) **5.30** Moesha (2096) **6.00** Press Gang (9909) **6.30-7.00** Doug (3589)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (4417676) **1.00pm** Madison (6283560) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (4497812) **2.00** Hangtime (4796183) **2.30** California Dreams (3318015) **3.00** Byker Grove (4717218) **3.30** Blast (3313560) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (3309367) **4.30** Hangtime (3398251) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (4712783) **5.30** California Dreams (3312831) **6.00** Byker Grove (3319744) **6.30** Madison (3300096) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (8597947)

BRAVO

8.00pm New Twilight Zone (6573367) **9.00** Monsters (3890015) **9.30** Twisted (4418305) **10.00** Tour of Duty (8596218) **11.00 FILM: Street Fighter II** (2877034) **1.00am** Starsky and Hutch (4188348) **2.00** Tour of Duty (7329503) **3.00 FILM: Street Fighter II** (3664874) **5.00** New Twilight Zone (3591085)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00am Roseanne (3270) **7.30** Roseanne (2473) **8.00** Entertainment UK (9218) **8.30** Almost Perfect (8725) **9.00** Cheers (26763) **9.30** Cybill (69541) **10.00** Frasier (20164) **10.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (39612) **11.00** In Bed with Me Dinner (98980) **11.30** Nightstand (28015) **12.30pm** Sledgehammer (78684) **1.00** Cheers (34400) **1.30** Cybill (53077) **2.00** Entertainment UK (27145) **2.30** In Bed with Me Dinner (33752) **3.00** Frasier (21936) **3.30-4.00** Almost Perfect (202323)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

6.00pm Armitage III (5530791) **8.30** The Twilight Zone (7055706) **9.00** Sightings (1861560) **10.00** SFScene (5949454) **10.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (4904909) **11.30** Festival of Fantasy, Thriller and Science Fiction Films (4757638) **12.00** Nightmare Cafe (3556771) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (9857023) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (5679313) **2.00** Friday the 13th (6829936) **3.00-4.00** Dark Shadows (3500597)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (7260367) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (4407299) **10.00** Screaming Reels (4347270) **10.30** Doing It Up (7259251) **11.00** The Painted House (3883725) **11.30** This Old House with Steve and Norm (3884454) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (7273831) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (4401015) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8296034) **1.30** Home Again with Bob Vila (4400386) **2.00** Hometime (4701657) **2.30** Furniture to Go (3321589) **3.00** Two's Country Cooking (4780164) **3.30-4.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm (3326034)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm High Five (3305541) **4.30** Driving Passions (3301725) **5.00** Time Travellers (4702909) **5.30** Justice Files (3325305) **6.00** Wild Things (3322218) **6.30** Wild Things (3306270) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (4705473) **7.30** Disaster (3302454) **8.00** History's Turning Points (4781893) **8.30** Crocodile Hunters (4700928) **9.00** Hitler's Henchmen (8598305) **10.00** Himmler — the Executioner (8569164) **11.00** Air Power (8273183) **12.00** Wings of the Red Star (8734232) **1.00am** Disaster (2851930) **1.30-2.00** Beyond 2000 (2637416)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Weapons at War (5167893) **5.00** Mummies (3455742) **6.00** Our Century (3537893) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Isaac Newton (1872676)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour
5.05am Cross Wits (9979218) **5.50** Family Fortunes (903386) **6.20** Challenge TV's Family Days Out (532473) **6.30** Catchphrase (893096) **7.05** Winner Takes All (953102) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (764305) **8.20** All Clued Up (806015) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (147560) **9.25** Challenge TV's InnQuizition (508657) **9.35** Sale of the Century (709249) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (507386) **11.20** Studs (356164) **12.00** Winner Takes All (35435) **12.30am** Family Late, Hart to Hart (56139) **1.30** Moonlighting (12077) **2.30** Jake and the Kid (75619) **3.30** My Two Dads (73394) **4.00** The Fall Guy (59042) **5.00** HSN Shopping (69868)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (5860893) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (7720365) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (7278299) **10.05** Jerry Springer (5437526) **11.00** Young and the Restless (7446218) **11.50** Brookside (9660928) **12.25pm** Why Me? Real Life Case Studies (19760299) **12.55** Tempest! (3849734) **1.40** Rolonda (6934763) **2.30** Agony Experience (7030725) **3.00** Live at Three (92055473) **4.05** Jerry Springer (4517299) **5.05** Lingo (44895980) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (7034541) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (9999522) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (9676164) **7.05** Hearts Afire (4202015) **7.35** Brookside (6894183) **8.05** Rolonda (6542676) **9.00 FILM: Codename: Dancer** (2004522) **11.00-12.00** Sex Zone (2094725)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Zabaan Sambhal Ke **8.00** Gaane Anjaane **8.30** Out and About **9.00 FILM: Anari** **11.30** Kurukshetra **12.00** Parampara **12.30pm** Raahat **1.00 FILM: Khemro Ledan** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.05** Ikke Pe Ikka **4.35** Hum Panch **5.00** Zone Time **5.25** Teer Kamaan **6.00** The Usha Uthup Show **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Video Countdown **8.00** News and Euronews **8.35** Sailaab **9.05 FILM: Jaggu** **11.30-12.00** Shu Chale Che

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for an economic
triple whammy?

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FILM DRAMA 46
Why the Brits
are coming
to Cannes

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MAY 12 1997

Pound faces pressure as Bank steers away from higher rates

By Alasdair Murray

THE POUND is expected to face a bumpy ride again this week after Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, hinted that the Bank was satisfied with last week's quarter-point rise in base rate.

The Bank issues its quarterly inflation bulletin tomorrow — its first since it won operational independence from the new Government. It is expected to say there is no immediate need to raise rates further.

Sterling came under pressure last week after rumours that the Government may re-enter the European exchange-rate mechanism at DM2.50 and a sustained sell-off of the US dollar on foreign exchanges. The pound fell eight pfennigs from a post-ERM high of DM2.82 to finish the week at DM2.74.

The Treasury has fiercely denied any plans to re-join the ERM, but the market believes that Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, would be more comfortable with a level closer to DM2.50. Mr George also welcomed the recent fall in the pound, although he made clear that the Bank has no intention of intervening on the foreign exchanges. He added that a lower pound could open the door for further interest rate rises later in the year.

Mr George believes that sterling's strength, based on its safe haven status in Europe and the fact that the UK economy is running ahead of the rest of Europe and Japan, could soon evaporate. The dollar, which the pound has tracked closely in recent months, is also expected to fall, with expectations of US interest rate rises receding and rates tipped to rise in Japan. Forex analysts calculate that the pound is still overvalued by about 10 per cent.

Labour's stock market honeymoon, which has seen the FT-SE 100 hit six consecutive new highs, may also end after suggestions yesterday that the planned mini-Budget may be more radical than expected. Mr Brown has also signalled that he is preparing a big overhaul of the corporate taxation system. Advance corporation tax (ACT) is likely to be the main target, although there is growing concern that corporation tax could also be raised. Analysts believe that abolition of ACT could knock about 5 per cent off share prices as pension funds move out of high-dividend stocks into other investments.

Mr Brown is in Brussels today for the first meeting of European finance ministers since the election. Most of the important single currency business will be held over to the Amsterdam summit next month, but markets believe that the meeting will give Mr Brown a chance to show his pro-European credentials.

Mr Brown is expected to sign two technical agreements, which had been held up by the previous Conservative Government, giving legal status to the euro. His support for a deal ensuring continuity of financial contracts under a single currency would please the City.

Labour ready to shake up jobless count

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government is to launch an urgent review of Britain's unemployment figures, which is likely to result in radical changes to the way that they are compiled and calculated.

The review is intended to restore credibility to key figures, which are widely regarded as compromised. One minister said: "We have to get these figures right. So we must set a new benchmark."

The shake-up will be announced on Wednesday with the latest unemployment figures. These are expected to show a further fall from their current level of 1.7 million. Ministers accept the move, when completed, could lead to a nominal increase in unemployment under Labour.

In opposition, Labour was highly critical of the unemployment figures, insisting that the previous Government's 30-plus changes, since 1979, to the way that they are produced means they do not give a true picture of the number of people out of work.

While ministers recognise that rectifying what they have called the "fiddled" figures on unemployment will be politically difficult, they are determined to restore public credibility to what even independent observers believe has become a debased set of statistics.

Ministers recognise that, by removing the compilation of the unemployment figures from the old Department of Employment and making them the responsibility of the Government's Office for National Statistics (ONS), their standing has been improved because, in part, they have been removed from political interference. But they believe there is more that can be done.

In redistributing some employment responsibilities around Whitehall, including charging the Department of Trade and Industry rather than the Department for Education and Employment with the duty of introducing a national minimum wage, Labour strategists rejected any idea of bringing responsibility for the unemployment figures back into the Education and Employment Department.

The rapid but thoroughgoing review of the jobless totals will draw on work carried out by the ONS, as well as the independent Royal Statistical Society. Studies by both, as well as a range of other analyses, recognise the drawbacks in using the current figures on the number of people out of work and claiming benefit as the principal measure of unemployment.

The new Government's review will look at the range of unemployment figures published in the United States, which measures joblessness in half a dozen ways, depending on the definition used to say who is without work. Similar measures are now published in Britain by the independent Employment Policy Institute.

The review is unlikely to recommend the abolition of the monthly count of claimants, which is a necessary administrative check on the level of benefit being paid out. But it will examine closely the groups of people excluded from claiming benefit, as well as the administrative targets set for the Employment Service to reject automatically a number of people making efforts to claim benefit.

The review of the unemployment figures is in line with the Government's wider intention of putting the ONS on a different footing, with a commitment to create a fully independent National Statistical Service.

☐ Pay settlements in the private sector are nudging upwards, Incomes Data Services, the wage research company, says today, with three quarters of firms now paying rises of 3 to 4 per cent.

☐ A new study published today by Warwick University says that Europe's working time directive could be a "blessing in disguise" for British industry if it encourages employers in the United Kingdom to take more seriously the issue of time at work.

Helen Liddell, right, with Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, is calling in pension chiefs

Minister carpets pension chiefs

By Robert Miller

A TREASURY minister has summoned the leaders of Britain's life and pensions companies to demand a prompt resolution of the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal.

After only a week in office, Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday announced that leaders of 25 of the top UK life companies have been called to a meeting on Wednesday. Ms Liddell, already described by Treasury insiders as a "serious toughie", will tell the chief executives that efforts to compensate an estimated 550,000 victims, who include miners, nurses, teachers and police officers, have been "pathetic".

The minister, who cannot fine or discipline mis-sellers, will say that the way in which the mis-selling scandal has been tackled will affect the shape of new financial services legislation which is to be drawn up next year. The legislation will also reflect how watchdogs handle future disciplinary problems.

Only 7,000 of more than half a million victims have so far been compensated for having been wrongly advised to transfer out of generous occupational or company pension schemes — or not join in the first place — in favour of personal pension plans.

Before meeting pension mis-sellers, Ms Liddell will hold talks with Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), which polices firms that sell direct to the public and is overseeing the bulk of the pensions mis-selling review.

Since January, Ms Bowe has held individual meetings with 25 of the life and pensions companies and independent financial advisers at which she has expressed concern at the lack of progress in compensating victims. The industry bill for compensation and costs associated with the review is expected to top £4 billion.

Ms Bowe has already demanded from each company a business plan on how it intends to make "substantial progress" by the end of the year.

Shares in Halifax head for £6 launch

By Gavin Lumsden

HALIFAX shares could start trading at £6 next month, about 140p more than originally forecast. Anticipating a shortage of stock in the converting building society, institutional investors are being forced to up their bids ahead of an auction to be held at the end of the month, analysts say.

This would give the society's 8.5 million members a minimum standard distribution worth £1,200.

Alliance & Leicester's share price has risen 100p since its flotation on April 21 as institutional investors fight to get the stock they did not get at auction. Although 26.9 per cent of A&L shares went under the hammer, Mercury Asset Management walked away with the lion's share and is now believed to hold an 8 per cent stake in the new bank on behalf of clients.

James Johnson, banking analyst at Credit Lyonnais, said: "Market-makers don't want to be caught short and driving each other up. There is also the suggestion that there will be less Halifax stock available, perhaps only 20 per cent, because of the variable distribution of shares. People with big accounts will get a bigger allocation and will be less inclined to sell straightaway."

The buoyant market and the strength of the financial sector means shares will probably soar from this level. Shares in the Woolwich Building Society, which floats in July, could start trading at 250p, compared with the society's original estimate of 188p, netting members £1,125.

Sir Rocco set to check in as chief of Tory coffers

By Patience Wheatcroft
City Editor

SIR Rocco Forte is likely to be charged with restoring the Tory party's finances after its expensive election defeat.

Sir Rocco has been approached by Tory chiefs and is said to be keen to take on the role. The former chairman of Forte, the giant hotels and catering business, Sir Rocco last year lost a hard-fought £3.9 billion bid battle against Granada. Gerry Robinson, executive chairman of Granada, was one of the most high-profile businessmen to declare himself a supporter of Tony Blair in the run-up to the election.

Sir Rocco, currently building a new hotel business backed by family and City money, would replace Lord Hambro as Conservative Treasurer. It is also thought that Lord Harris of Peckham, the carpet millionaire who did most to restore Tory coffers recently, has decided that his fundraising efforts for the party may now be exhausted.

Forte: keen contender

The appointment of Treasurer is likely to be announced soon after the party leadership issue is decided. Lord Hambro has been Treasurer for about four years. His family bank, of which he is chairman, is caught up in the City scandal over the stillborn takeover bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Hambros Bank has brought in a City firm of lawyers to conduct an internal investigation into how the bank conducted itself during the preparations for the bid by Andrew Regan and his Lanica organisation. Confidential documents were taken from the Co-op, used in the preparation of the bid and circulated among rivals.

Sir Rocco has been re-establishing a presence in the hotel industry. He has already announced two hotel projects and a restaurant in the UK and within the next couple of months hopes to conclude the purchase of at least two hotels on the Continent.

And the winners are . . .

By Eric Reguly

THE backbone of a genuine British film industry will be formed this week when the Arts Council awards up to £156 million in lottery money to four of 37 British film consortiums created to bid for the funds. The backers include Ewan McGregor, Elton John, and Richard Branson.

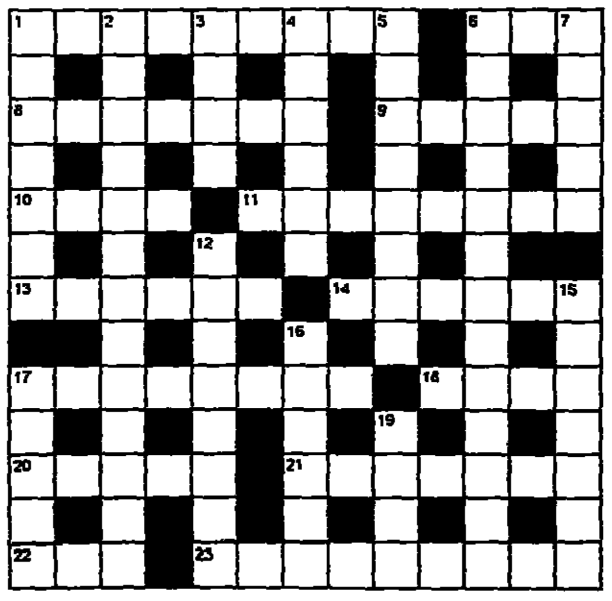
Charles Denton, chairman of the Arts Council's Film Advisory Board, will announce the winning consortiums on Thursday afternoon at the Cannes Film Festival. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for National Heritage, is expected at his side. Each of the four winners will receive up to £39 million over six years. The money will be used to help to finance a long list of British films that the Arts Council hopes will keep another wave of British film talent from fleeing to Hollywood.

The consortiums bring together producers, financiers and distributors. Most UK film companies are weak in crucial areas, most notably international distribution. Studio Pictures, whose backers include Ewan McGregor, star of *Trainspotting*, has recruited Alliance Communications, of Toronto, for international and Electric Pictures for domestic distribution.

The Double Negative consortium ties together Working Title Films, the producer of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, and Polygram, one of the world's largest film distributors. The Partners in Film Consortium includes Elton John's Rocket Pictures, the First Independent Distribution company and Guinness Mahon, the merchant bank.

Cash in the can, page 46

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1091

ACROSS
1 Beauty queen (4,5)
6 Inn (3)
8 Tensely repressed (*slang*) (7)
9 Unsullied; to wash (5)
10 The next in line (4)
11 Wave menacingly (8)
13 Powerful (6)
14 At the back of (6)
17 Computer-printed document (4,4)
18 Personal accessory; some honey (4)
20 Muslim decree (5)
21 Tennyson poem; Joyce book (7)
22 Throw; bashful (3)
23 With keen vision (5-4)

DOWN
1 Somerset —, author/playwright (7)
2 Comfortably placed (7,6)
3 Carry on; earnings (4)
4 Go back; cease work (6)
5 Wine-holder (8)
6 Most steeply, hastily (13)
7 Clump; collection (5)
12 Enclosure of stakes (8)
15 Adulterated (7)
16 (Trap) suddenly closed; Hopkins' poetic rhythm (6)
17 Blows heavily; penalises at draughts (5)
19 Use keyboard (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1090

ACROSS: 1 Rash 3 Barbados 8 Skim 9 Coq au vin 11 My Fair Lady 14 Rarity 15 Valour 17 Belongings 20 Aperitif 21 Four 22 Problems 23 True

DOWN: 1 Rosemary 2 Spitfire 4 Apollo 5 By and large 6 Dove 7 Sung 10 Fit the bill 12 Downpour 13 Preserve 16 Podium 18 Carp 19 Zero

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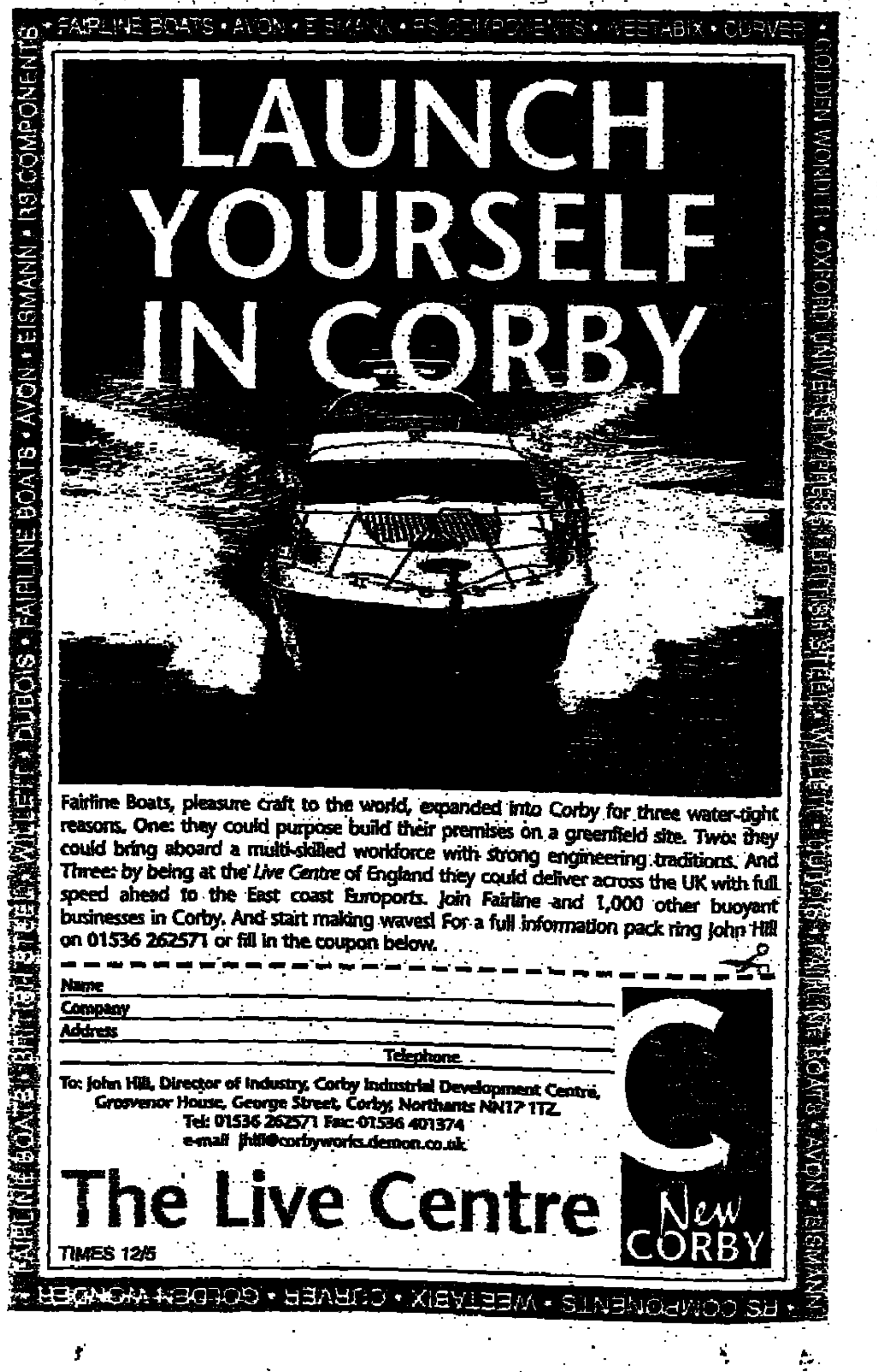
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TIMES 12/5

Clinton challenges Whitewater call to surrender notes

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Whitewater affair flared into a public clash yesterday between President Clinton and Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, over disputed notes involving the investigation of Hillary Clinton.

Mr Starr claimed that the White House refusal to surrender notes of her conversations with its lawyers, on the ground of privilege, was impeding his investigation.

In a speech to newspaper editors in Mr Clinton's home state of Arkansas, Mr Starr declared: "Never in history has this kind of privilege been asserted in a federal criminal proceeding." Mr Starr's claim may be true in the strictest sense, but Richard Nixon did make much the same argument in vainly trying not to hand over his tapes — giving Whitewater an echo of Watergate.

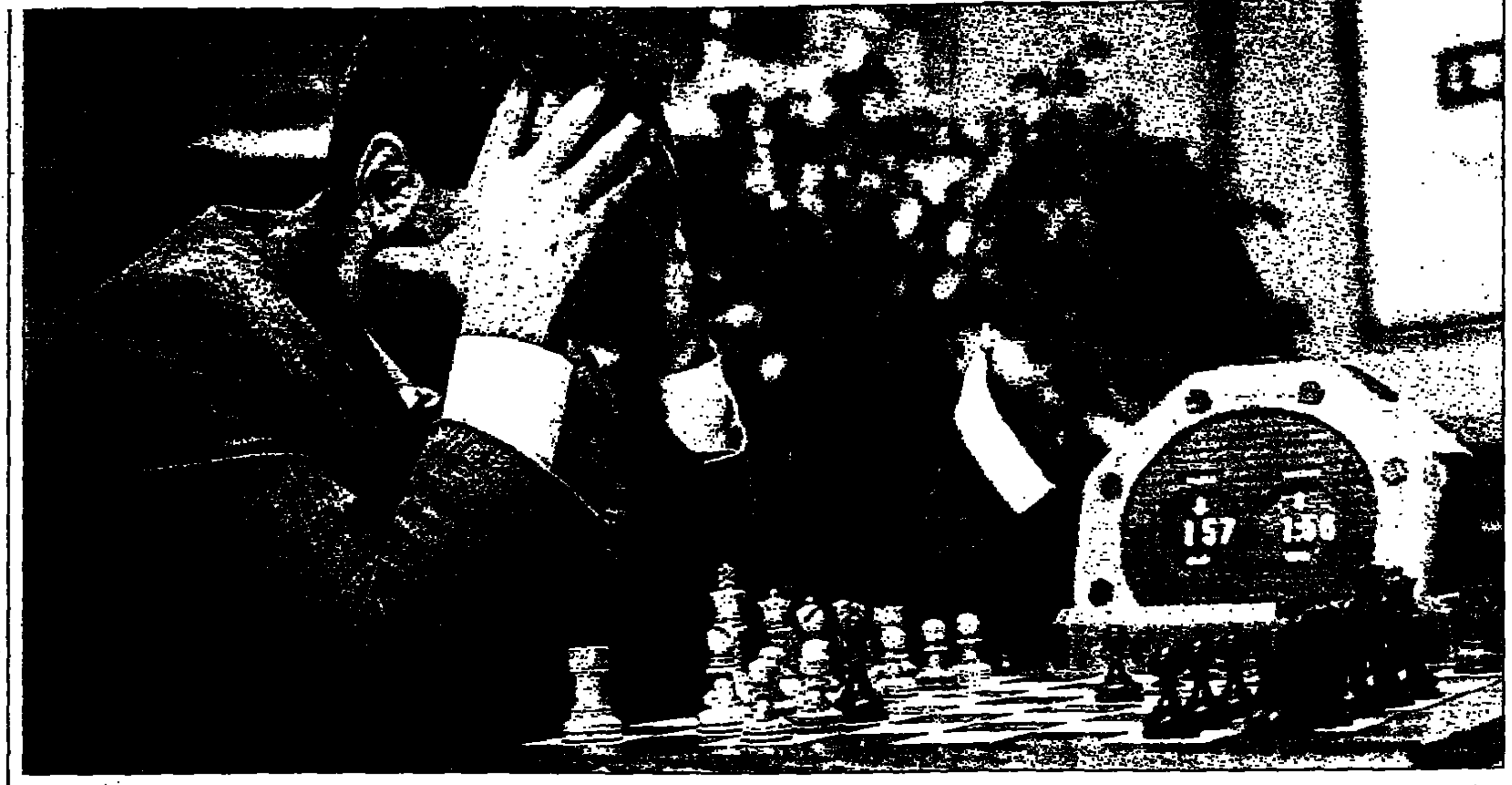
Mr Clinton, in Barbados, said he was advised not to surrender the notes because the issue was a "major constitutional question". It was "nonsense" for Mr Starr to claim that his investigation had been hindered, said Larry Davis, a White House counsel. Rather, Mr Starr had created the dispute by embarking on a "fishing expedition" for documents.

In recently unsealed court papers, Mr Starr said Mrs Clinton's testimony had changed over time, reinforcing speculation that Mr Starr may be trying to indict her for obstruction of justice.

Mr Starr is seeking two sets of lawyers' notes from meetings with Mrs Clinton. The first concerns her activities after the death by gunshot wound of Vincent Foster, deputy White House counsel. His death was ruled a suicide. The second deals with missing billing records, later found in the White House private quarters, from the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock where Mrs Clinton and Foster had been colleagues.

Mr Starr argues that Mrs Clinton's discussions were not privileged because they were with government lawyers, not her private ones. An appeal court ruled in his favour, saying that to use government attorneys as a shield against producing information in a criminal investigation would be a gross abuse of public funds. The White House will appeal to the Supreme Court against the ruling today.

Washington is puzzling over Mr Starr's motive. The information he seeks was apparently covered by Mrs Clinton during her testimony to a Washington grand jury last year. It is unclear why he wants the information again unless, as some lawyers speculate, he failed to win an indictment from the grand jury and is trying with a second grand jury.



STAN HONDA / EPA

Kasparov makes his last stand

Garry Kasparov goes into battle for the honour of humanity in New York yesterday in the decisive game of his chess duel with the IBM computer Deep Blue (James Bone writes).

The world's greatest chess champion laboured under the disadvantage of playing black in the final encounter of the six-game match, with the score even at one win each and three draws. The match became a contest between the nimble, intuitive play of the Russian grandmaster and the brute force of his silicon rival, which can calculate 200 million positions a second. Kasparov beat an earlier version of Deep Blue in Philadelphia last year, but he speaks with awe about the latest machine. Chess experts lament that the super-computer is squeezing the creativity of the game into an ever-smaller section of the middle game, and predict darkly that chess may one day no longer be considered difficult enough to play. Even at speeds far faster than Deep Blue, however, it would still be impossible for a computer to calculate all the estimated 10^{120} possible paths through a typical chess game.

The champion told a cheering crowd before the match: "I am not afraid to admit that I am afraid. It definitely goes beyond any chess computer in the world."

Chess report, page 37

Titanic's salvagers attacked

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE controversial effort to salvage the *Titanic* has been denounced by an international museum group for its mishandling of recovered artefacts.

Kevin Fewster, president of the International Congress of Maritime Museums, told *The New York Times* that items from the wreck lie "scattered across at least eight cities on both sides of the Atlantic".

He said RMS Titanic, the New York-based salvage company, had shown no commitment to "unifying the mass of dive data" although such work would require only two maritime experts and cost $150,000 (£93,000) — a fraction of the $20 million the firm has spent on the project. The museum association is opposing the largest American exhibition of Titanic artefacts until the company improves its preservation record.

The show, in the basement of a Memphis sports arena, presents some 300 objects, ranging from gold coins to a steward's jacket. About 4,000 items have been retrieved from the liner, which sank on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York in 1912 with the loss of more than 1,500 lives.

RMS Titanic says that its top priority has been to conserve objects raised from the wreck and to share them with the public, but insists that it is also committed to providing data to scholars.

Pentagon in moral combat

BY IAN BRODIE

THE American armed forces, struggling to cope with recent sex scandals and an influx of women recruits, will try to clarify its rules governing relationships within the forces.

At present the military frowns on what it calls fraternisation between those of differing rank. These rules, the Pentagon said yesterday, were written for combat situations where a relationship could complicate an officer's decision about sending someone into danger.

With the Cold War over, some argue that the rules are too rigid for a largely peaceable world. They are also confusing.

The army, for example, allows dating between officers and other ranks who are assigned to different units. Other branches of the services, however, prohibit any such close relationship and court-martials those involved.

The Air Force, the least forgiving service, faces damaging publicity over its pending court martial of the first woman to earn her pilot's wings to fly the B52, an eight-engined bomber.

The defendant, Lieutenant Kelly Flinn, is accused of adultery with a civilian who admits he lied to her that he was legally separated from his wife and getting a divorce. If found guilty, she could be imprisoned and dismissed from the service.

Fiji seeks to reforge link to the Crown

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TEN years after it became a republic, Fiji is negotiating for readmission to the Commonwealth, with its political leaders calling for the Queen to return as the island's constitutional monarch.

General Sitiveni Rabuka, who led the 1987 coup against the Crown that led to Fiji's expulsion, has had quiet talks in Luxembourg with senior Commonwealth officials and is likely to make a formal application to be laid before the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Edinburgh in October. His move is said to have delighted the Queen, the head of the Commonwealth, and the Prince of Wales has told diplomats that he welcomed it.

The 1987 coup was largely due to resentment in Fiji at the growing influence of the Indian population, who then made up almost half the population. A revolt supported by indigenous islanders overthrew the government and proclaimed a republic.

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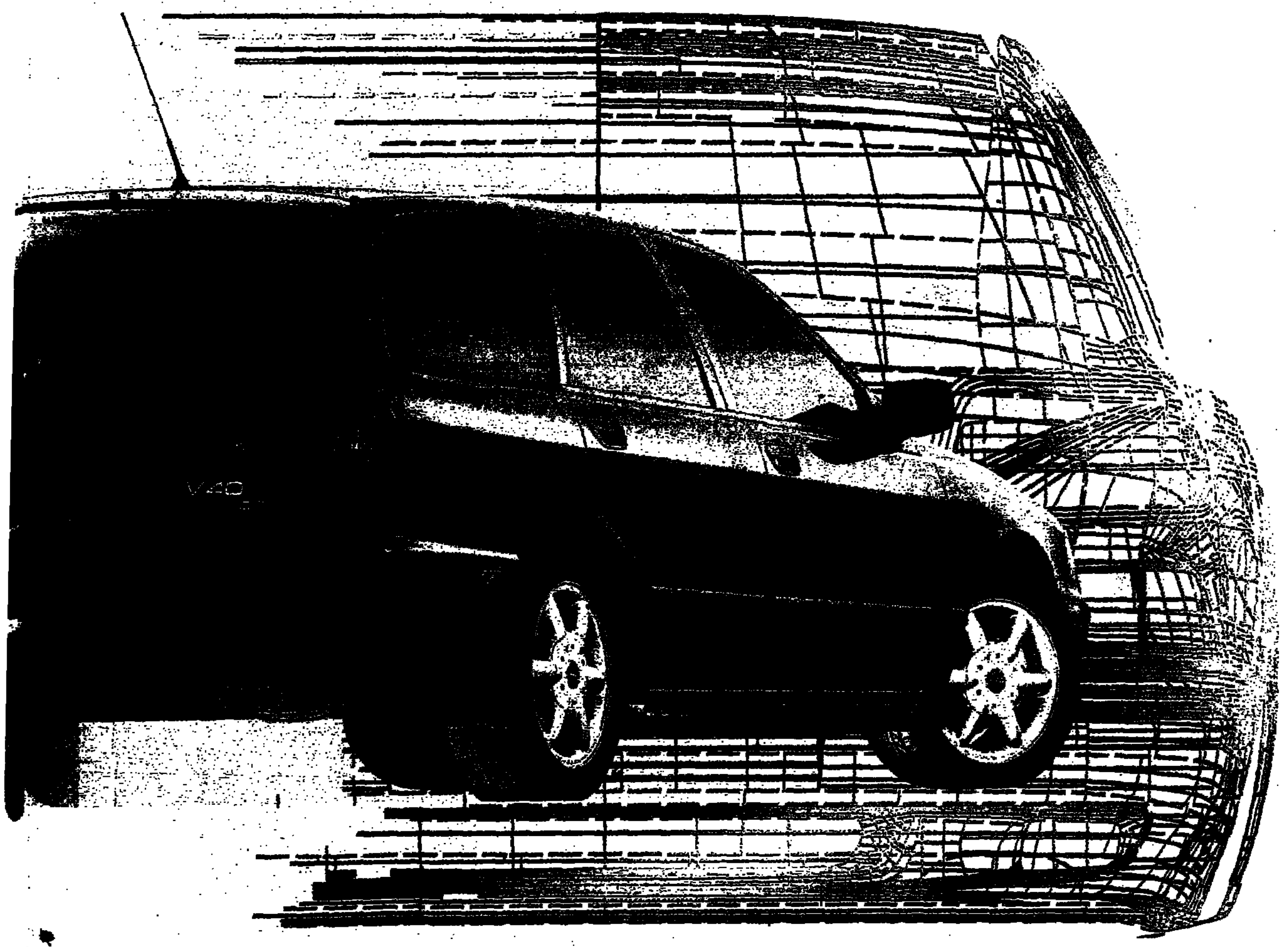

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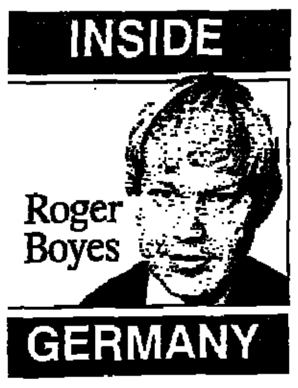
Bonn's springtime for euro is overshadowed by cloud of sceptics



There is no mistaking German glee about Tony Blair. For many months the Bonn line was that he would represent a welcome change, but only in tone, not in substance. Now the talk is of deals about to be *clinched, not of mood* music.

It is clear that Helmut Kohl's office deliberately played down its real, very *high expectations of a Labour* Government, lest overt support from Bonn should backfire in the election campaign. Normally sober officials are throwing open their Rhine-facing windows and bursting into song; spring has sprung for the euro.

Ordinary Germans remain suspicious. That is beginning to worry the European Commission, which is sponsoring a rolling series of "European Weeks" throughout Germany. No expense is being spared to stamp out German scepticism. In *Berlin last* week the euro was accepted as the coin of the realm by more than 50 supermarkets, *boutiques* and restaurants. More than 1.3 million pseudo-euros were minted — with the Brandenburg Gate on the reverse — special cash tills were installed, while menus and price lists were posted in marks and euros.

A McDonald's hamburger with chips and ice cream cost four euros, or eight marks. After some initial excitement, Berliners became bored with the toy money and stuck to German cash: by the end of *the experimental* week just over 500,000 euros were in circulation. Most, one suspects, will end up in the pockets of collectors.

How many more dress rehearsals will Germany need before it comes to accept the euro in place of the mark, token of prosperity and post-war stability?

In fact, Germany has already had one run-in with monetary union — the political merger of 22 German principalities and three free cities in 1871 was sealed by a common currency. Even then there was strong resistance — the minutes of the Bundesrat debate in 1871 read like a *blueprint for the present euro* arguments. But unlike other attempts — the Latin currency union of 1865 and the Scandinavian union of 1872 — the unified German mark worked well (the coins were minted on French gold, paid as reparations by the loser of the Franco-Prussian War).

Bismarck's' mark succeeded *because political integra*tion accompanied, or preceded, the monetary merger every step of the way. German politicians today draw a similar conclusion when they mutter darkly of Maastricht 3 and Maastricht 4 treaties, should Amsterdam produce only meagre results on *political integration.*

Opinion polls record a stable sceptical constituency: between 55 per cent and 60 per cent of Germans declare against the euro. Will they ever come round? Zealots believe it is only a matter of time and propaganda: identifying the euro with success. Berti Vogts, the national football coach, is already doing his bit in advertising the new currency.

My impression is that the Government *has overestimat*ed its ability to swing popular opinion its way. Last week I attended a "Europe Week" event in the Hesse parliament. More than 300 editors of school newspapers peppered experts — a European Commission official, a Euro-deputy, the regional Minister for Europe — *with unanswer*able questions.

Why was the euro more important than jobs? How could monetary union prevent war on the Continent? Why wasn't Europe more democratic? Why was Turkey excluded from the European club? One boy had picked oranges in Greece for two weeks, then seen them thrown on a rubbish dump in *the name of an absurd agri*cultural policy. These youths will be first-time voters in the general election next year, and they will be hard-headed in their choices. A politician pleading for a delay in introducing the euro, and a youth job-creation scheme, would scoop up these votes.

The *federal* idealism of the Kohl generation has evaporated and the Chancellor has tailored his rhetoric. But he may have shifted too late. Increasingly, Germans insist on a pragmatic approach to the union; to young Germans, Herr Kohl's Europe seems to be looking backwards and federalists are *visitors* from a distant planet.

Voters direct their anger at politics of an arrogant elite

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

WITH just a fortnight to go before French voters begin electing a new parliament, one institution has become a key focus for popular anger at the country's aloof, technocratic political elite.

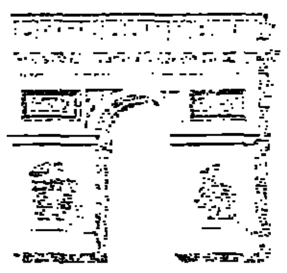
The Ecole Nationale d'Administration — better known as ENA, the post-graduate training-ground which produces so many of the country's top politicians, business leaders and civil servants — is once again under attack as a scapegoat for France's ills and a powerful symbol of widespead disenchantment with the political process.

Since the election campaign began, numerous candidates have opened fire on ENA, its elitism and *les énarques*, its hugely influential products. In Paris alone, three politicians are standing for the Organisation Against the ENA System party (OCSENA).

One Gaullist MP fighting for re-election, Jean-Michel Fourgous, has called for the abolition of the grandest of *France's grandes écoles*, this "administrative club, intellectually competent but economically archaic, politically *irresponsible and socially cut* off from the people".

During his presidential campaign just over two years *ago, Jacques Chirac thun*dered against the ENA network, calling it "an omnipotent caste divorced from reality, more talented in flattery than decision-making".

But M Chirac, it should be noted, is the country's most prominent ENA graduate, while his Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, has come to represent the *énarque par*



FRENCH ELECTIONS

excellence — highly intelligent, academically impeccable but distant, uncompromising and arrogant. Two of the *front-runners to replace him*, the parliamentary Speaker, Philippe Séguin, and the former Prime Minister, Edouard *Balladur, are also members of* the ENA club. Nor is inclusion confined to the Right. Lionel Jospin, the leader of the Socialist Party, *is also a graduate*, along with the former Socialist Prime Ministers Laurent Fabius and Michel Rocard.

The cynicism rife in all parts of the French electorate is due, in part, to the perception that the election will make little impact on the influential old-boy network and that, in the words of OCSENA, "the senior administration has taken over French politics".

That view has been heightened by the low level of political debate, compounding the belief that a posse of professional politicians is running the election over the heads of the population, with scant regard for voters' genuine concerns and offering little to choose between them.

That impression was starkly reinforced by the exchange of "open letters" between the principal political players last week. First M Chirac offered his opinions in a newspaper article: then M Jospin replied in another; then M Juppé chipped in. For all the impact on the electorate, they might have been bureaucrats exchanging memos.

The principal issue of this election, the future of the *single European currency*, has been barely addressed so far. M Chirac called the snap election precisely to push *ahead with deficit-reduction* and the EMU project, but campaigning on that platform is a sure vote-loser.

M Jospin, on the other hand, has raised questions about the single currency, but cannot risk openly opposing it.

*As the economic commenta*tor, Alain Minc, observed last week: "It is all very hypocritical here in France."

Faced *with a line-up of* politicians whose policies and pedigrees are often all but indistinguishable and an election campaign enlivened only by sniping within the alliances on left and right, much of the electorate has taken refuge in boredom and apathy.

The latest poll, published yesterday by *Le Journal du Dimanche*, showed that the centre-right coalition had pulled ahead again after a flurry of surveys suggesting that the Left might be on track for an upset victory. An IFOP poll predicted 41 per cent for the combined Right and 38 per cent for the left-wing alliance, translating into 328-358 seats for the Centre-Right and 193-227 for the Left.

But perhaps most significantly, nearly 30 per cent of those polled had not made up their minds. "As soon as one of the great political families goes forward, it is stopped in its tracks," said columnist Alain Genestar in *Le Journal du Dimanche*. "The French people are expressing their lack of enthusiasm for a win by either camp."

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

FRANÇOIS MORI / AP

Lionel Jospin, the French Socialist leader, pauses to taste cherries during a weekend campaign break in Paris

19 die in Kashmir clashes

Srinagar: Gun battles between Muslim separatists and Indian troops and abductions in Kashmir left 19 people dead at the weekend, police report*ed last night. Six militants and* an Indian soldier were killed in the main clash at Bahkihukam village, 50 miles *north of here*, after troops surrounded the village to arrest separatist activists. The militants were reported to have *opened fire using automatic rifles. (AFP)*

Volga hero dies

Moscow: The police chief of Kostrama town drowned after rescuing four people whose boat overturned in the Volga as Russians celebrated Victory Day, marking their triumph over the Nazis. *(AP)*

Big spenders

Bangkok: US troops on leave from joint exercises with the Thai military will spend the equivalent of £2.5 million in Pattaya, notorious for prostitution and crime, the Thai tourism authority says. *(AP)*

Ancient excuse

Santa Fe: Roger Katz, 50, a former teacher who allegedly had an affair with a 14-year-old student, told a New Mexico judge she had saved his life when he was a 7th-century Buddhist monk. *(Reuter)*

Police fear wider network of Venice militants

Rome: Italian police issued a warning yesterday that the Venetian separatists *who occupied the Campanile (bell tower)* on St Mark's Square on Friday were not "isolated amateurs" but part of a wider network (Richard Owen writes).

***Police said other members of a* militant group seeking "independence" for Venice and the Veneto region had threatened to carry out further acts of terrorism. *La Repubblica*, which with other Italian newspapers devoted six pages on Saturday to the attack and *again yesterday, said in* a *front-page* editorial that, although the assault on the Campanile by eight self-styled Venetian commandos smacked of buffoonery, *it reflected a wider demand for local* autonomy. "The Italian state must nip this threat in the bud by pushing through federalist reforms to give the *regions greater powers,*" the paper said.**

Yesterday voters went to the polls in 80 towns and provinces in a second round *of local elections, with control* of key northern towns such as Milan, Turin and Trieste at stake. Umberto Bossi, the leader of the separatist Northern *League — which has denied having any* links with the group of Venetian militants — urged his followers to boycott the voting and "go to the mountains" for the *day instead.*

Palermo court drama mars opera reopening

FROM FRANCESCO BONGARRA IN PALERMO
AND RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AFTER last-minute restoration work, the wraps come off Palermo's partially renovated opera house today following a *23-year closure, with the* Teatro Massimo echoing to the aria *Va Pensiero* from Verdi's *Nabucco* — the last work *played there before it* closed for repairs in January 1974. For Palermo the gala reopening is a symbol of hope and *revival* as the city *emerges* from the grip of the Mafia.

But right-wing Sicilian politicians from Forza Italia and the Alleanza Nazionale accused Leoluca Orlando, the popular anti-Mafia Mayor of Palermo, of staging the spectacle prematurely to distract attention from accusations that he *mismanaged* opera restoration funds as Mayor in the 1980s. *Signor* Orlando faces re-election in the autumn.

The Teatro Massimo will *not be able to stage a full opera* for at least another year and is confining itself to concerts. Today's opening concert is by the Berlin Philharmonic, conducted by Claudio Abbado. Franco Zeffirelli, the film director and a senator for Sicily, *said Signor Orlando was stag*ing a "fake, papier-mâché inauguration" for electoral purposes.

Trial proceedings against Signor Orlando are due to open next week. He said yesterday he had taken control *of the opera restoration and* appointed new builders after the last mayoral election in 1993 "precisely because funds were *going missing*". *He had* "full faith in the judges" and would be exonerated.

The neo-classical Teatro Massimo is the victim of neglect rather than fire. Built between 1875 and 1897 by the Sicilian architect, Ernesto Basile, with *money provided* by the fortunes of British wine merchants who founded the Marsala wine industry, it is the third largest opera house in Europe (after Vienna and Paris). It was closed because it lacked an emergency exit and *contravened safety rules*.

The fact that it has taken nearly a quarter of a century to reopen is seen as testimony to the bureaucracy and corruption which has plagued Sicily despite periodic attempts to clean up the system.

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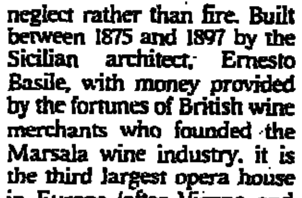

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Why the Hindenburg went up in flames

US scientists have taken another look at the zeppelin disaster. **Anjana Ahuja** reports

Floating timebomb: in the early evening of May 6, 1937, the Hindenburg exploded and crashed at Lakehurst in New Jersey

Sixty years ago this week, the streets of New York were packed with people, their eyes straining heavenwards to see the floating giant. That evening, the Hindenburg, its silver skin decorated with swastikas, was no more. Eyewitnesses said it took less than a minute for the zeppelin to ignite, explode and crash at Lakehurst in New Jersey.

The ensuing decades have not dampened speculation *about the cause*: was the disaster, which claimed the lives of 36 of the 97 people on board, caused by static electricity discharged from the outer cover; a bomb; or an incendiary bullet? But one important aspect — that the blaze took hold because the hydrogen used to keep the airship afloat was highly flammable — has not been questioned, until now.

In a timely piece of detective work, two scientists have stepped forward with a radically different scientific analysis of what happened. Addison Bain, the former head of Nasa's hydrogen programme at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, and Richard Van Treuren, a space shuttle engineer, say the fabric of the airship and its waterproof lacquer coating were the key fire hazards. It would have been obvious to blame hydrogen, and more expedient — the Germans were forced to use the flammable hydrogen because, as diplomatic tensions escalated, America would not export nonflammable helium.

The story begins with Mr Bain, a Nasa employee for 30 years. One of his tasks was to procure hydrogen gas for use in the space shuttle programme. "I was compiling a book on hydrogen safety and I was continually coming across reports of the Hindenburg disaster," he says. "But nearly every report had some kind of inconsistency."

His curiosity aroused, Mr Bain began to research the event more thoroughly. He found that the airship envelope, or cover, was made from cotton and linen. Doping materials were added to stiffen the fabric, make it waterproof and provide some protection from the sun.

"The doping materials included a powdered aluminium, which is used in space shuttles; and a cellulose nitrate, which is used to make explosives," he says. "The other things that caught my eye were photographs and footage of the event and the reports. Witnesses reported seeing yellow, red and orange flames. Hydrogen burns without colour. Also, the pieces of fabric did not self-extinguish. They carried on burning."

Mr Bain, who had by this time retired, contacted his former colleagues at the Kennedy Space Centre, including Mr Van Treuren, who is also an airship enthusiast. Friends at the centre's material science laboratory agreed to test the theory that it was the zeppelin's doped fabric, rather than the hydrogen gas, that proved lethal. But first, the men had to track down fragments of the Hindenburg cover. Some aficionados refused to part with their scraps of history; others donated tiny portions. Mr Bain also paid for samples.

Scientists at Kennedy then conducted tests for ignition and inflammability. In the first test, they applied an arc of electricity to the fabric. If the arc hit the fabric perpendicularly, as a lightning bolt would do, it burnt a harmless hole. If the arc hit the fabric in a parallel way, with electrical charge shooting along the cloth, the fragment ignited.

This confirmed Mr Bain's theory that the doped outer covering of the Hindenburg was, in effect, a thin layer of explosive rocket fuel. He thinks the conditions in the early evening of May 6, 1937, would have been fatally ideal — a passing thunderstorm, he says, had left the atmosphere highly electrified.

As part of his research, Mr Bain travelled to Friedrichshafen, Germany, where Count Ferdinand Graf von Zeppelin built his airships, including the Hindenburg. There, he discovered designs for the Hindenburg's successor, the LZ-130. "Among the changes were plans to reduce the flammability of the cover and improve the conductivity of the airship envelope," he says. "The changes suggest that the manufacturers knew the real cause of the fire."

Mr Bain and Mr Van Treuren are publishing their findings in *Buoyant Flight*, a US magazine. They cite other factors that add weight to their argument: archival accounts of US Navy airships filled with helium which burnt as furiously, and records of hydrogen-filled airships coming under fire and failing to burn.

Their theory has, for the most part, been well-received. "A lot of people feel as if they've had their eyes opened," says Eric Brothers, the editor of *Buoyant Flight*. "These guys have really looked into the science of how hydrogen burns, using technology that wasn't around 60 years ago."

Some sceptics, however, point out that the fabric may have changed substantially. Mr Bain disputes this: "The fragments are remarkably well-preserved. In so many cases we have seen the frailty of human engineering. The sulphur in the steel hull of the *Titanic* caused it to shatter. In the Challenger disaster, the O-ring became inelastic at cold temperatures. Sometimes, we cannot compete with Mother Nature."

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SCIENCE BRIEFING

◆

Nigel Hawkes

TRADITIONALLY, the world's fastest computers have been used to forecast the weather and to simulate the explosion of nuclear weapons. The move away from nuclear testing puts a greater premium on this latter capability, and a supercomputer recently installed at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, will increasingly take on the role of proving that the weapons in the American stockpile still work.

But before they started, Gil Weigand, the official responsible for strategic computing at the US Department of Energy, asked Sandia to carry out a simulation of more general interest. Dr David Crawford responded by using the computer to simulate an event of incomparably greater power than even a nuclear weapon — the impact of a one-kilometre comet on the Earth. That is about the size of the largest fragment of the comet Shoemaker-Levy which struck Jupiter in 1994.

Dr Crawford and his colleague, Dr Mark Boslough, used 1,500 processors of the Intel supercomputer, which is capable of one trillion operations per second. The problem was split into 54 million separate "zones" of operation and ran for a full 48 hours. They used the same program as they had used to simulate the Jupiter impact — on that occasion, the prediction that a visible plume would rise above the rim of Jupiter was borne out by experience.

They assumed a one-kilometre comet, which would weigh about a billion tons, travelling at 60 kilometres per second and hitting the atmosphere at an angle of 45 degrees before landing in one of the world's oceans. This is not a large comet — Hale-Bopp is about 40 kilometres across and weighs about ten trillion tons.

The simulation starts with the comet about 30 kilometres above the surface, producing a luminescent bow shock as it penetrates the atmosphere. It hits the ocean less than a second later, generating an impact energy of 300 billion tons of TNT — ten times the power of all the nuclear weapons in existence at the height of the Cold War. The explosion creates a deep hole in the ocean, and vaporising the comet instantly, along with 300 to 500 cubic kilometres of water, which rises as a huge steam explosion. Debris is hurled into ballistic trajectories that carry it around the Earth.

Low-lying areas of land would be swamped by huge waves, but a comet this size is too small to cause a global catastrophe. If it were only slightly larger, says Dr Crawford, the debris would be sufficient to block out sunlight and disrupt agriculture. "Simulations of this kind can help to pin down the energy threshold and help to answer the question: Is it a regional or a global catastrophe?"

Fortunately, the chances of such an event are reckoned to be small, about once every 300,000 years. That's a long time in human history, although not so long when measured against the Earth's 4.5 billion-year lifetime. Dr Boslough says: "It's a low probability, high-consequence event."

How brittle stars grow new limbs

THE brittle star, a longer-armed version of the starfish, loses limbs with regularity but manages to grow new ones without the wounds becoming infected. Last week Dr Bill Dobson, a marine physiologist from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, told a Miami conference how the creature does it.

He says symbiotic bacteria living on the brittle star produce compounds that kill many pathogens. With Eileen Stahl, a graduate student, Dr Dobson has shown that at least ten species of bacteria live in the brittle star, and that within an hour or two of an injury the wound is completely covered with them.

When tested in petri dishes against common pathogens, many of the bacterial species were able to prevent the growth of the organisms responsible for pneumonia, salmonella and diphtheria. Dr Dobson hopes further study will reveal what the bacteria are, and which compounds they produce, with the aim of creating a new range of antibiotic drugs.

US satellite detects early settler quarries

USING satellite images, a team of American scientists has pinpointed eight quarries worked by the first settlers of North America up to 10,000 years ago. The quarries, a source of a quartz-like material called chert used for making tools, all lie in Horse Prairie Valley, an 800 square mile area of southwest Montana.

The team, from the University of Colorado and led by anthropologist Thomas Carr, first studied a known quarry. From this data they developed spectral "signatures" of 12 geological and vegetational patterns characteristic of the quarry. Different frequences of radiation detected by satellites provide information about the type of rocks, and the type of plants, in any small area. A chert quarry, for example, would be expected to show the kind of bedrock that carries chert, next to an area of disturbed soil.

A computer searched images taken by the Landsat satellite for the characteristics: eight sites turned out to be quarries. Mr Carr believes the technique has great potential for uncovering other ancient quarries.

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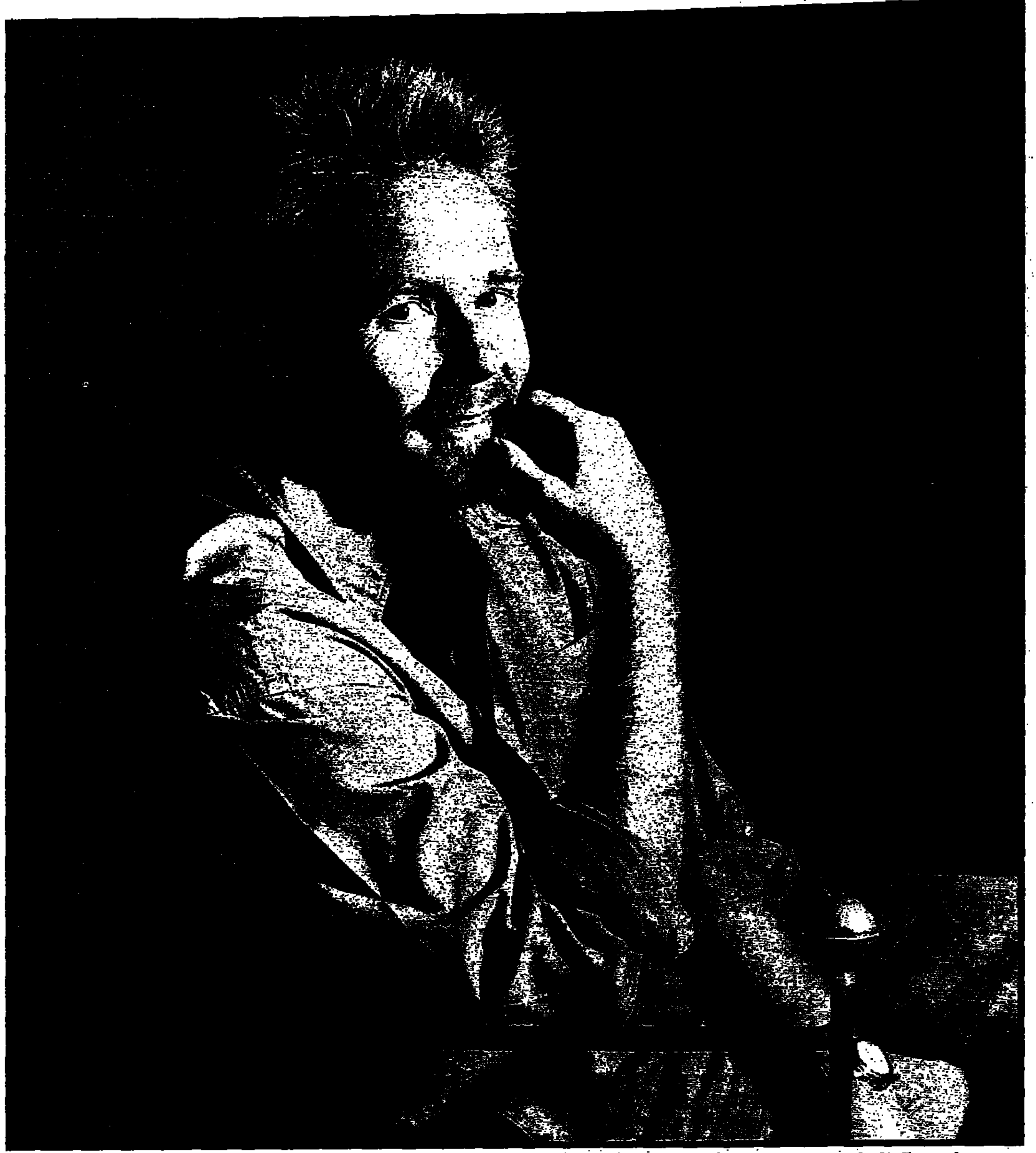
'There have been times when I've felt the pressure of who my father is'

Jason Connery hopes that his latest film role, as Macbeth, will finally free him from comparisons with 007. Interview by **Giles Whittell**

ROBERT GALLAGHER



Jason Connery is intent on disguising his absurdly good looks. The *Macbeth* hair has been replaced by a hedgehog cut and a Hollywood goatee

There is a story from Jason Connery's reckless youth that, to his credit, he does not *mind retelling. Twelve years* or so ago he was racing his motorbike in Sussex when, in the process of crashing, he banged his left testicle against his petrol tank.

He fractured a thumb and some ribs but it was his *undercarriage that alarmed* the paramedics. Bleeding internally, his scrotum swelled to the size of a grapefruit. He was rushed to hospital in Brighton and undressed by a female nurse who promptly called in two more.

When the specialist arrived she announced an incision would have to be made to let the blood drain out, but not before summoning ten medical students to behold the rare sight of acute testicular haemorrhage.

"*You don't mind, do you,* Mr Connery?" he remembers being told. He was on national television every week at the time as *Robin of Sherwood*: a familiar face, not to mention a famous name.

"No," he groaned. As it *turned out, the incision was* never made and the testicle gradually healed of its own accord. But Connery lost a job in a film produced by Michael Douglas because of it. When Connery withdrew, Douglas telephoned to ask why. *Connery never told him.*

This son of Sean is stoic and very private, even if his privacy has to come before his career. Such are his priorities as he arrives in London this week from Los Angeles for his first major British premiere, as the lead in a new film version of *Macbeth*. It is, he hopes, the role that will finally establish him as a major actor in his own right, independent and in demand beyond his father's lowering shadow.

As on the motorbike track, *so in film: Connery Jr does not* want for courage. He has taken on one of the great tragic roles in the language despite a curriculum vitae that boasts only one professional Shakespeare part before it: he once played Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew* at Southampton. Otherwise, he has not touched the Bard since school.

"I did feel I was being thrown in the deep end," he says. "But I was the one who threw myself there." He did not audition for the part, exactly. It was more a case of agreeing to team up again with his old mate Bob Carruthers of Cromwell Films, which finances ultra-low budget films by selling 500 or so shares at $500 per investor.

The innovative Carruthers system ensures that even if shareholders don't recoup their money they get invitations to the premiere and the chance of being an extra. The challenge for the director and his principals is to harness this amateur enthusiasm in the *name of a professional film.*

Connery prepared diligently. For one thing, he grew a full beard and very long hair. Hirsute was hip in 11th-century Scotland, but it also conveniently distinguishes the current Connery from the close-cropped, boy-next-door guise in which he played Robin Hood. (Reclining for the *Times photographer beneath* Whoopi Goldberg's cigar cabinet in a private humidor in Beverly Hills, he still seems intent on disguising his absurdly good looks. The *Macbeth* hairstyle has been replaced by a hedgehog cut *and the unaccountably* fashionable Hollywood goatee.)

Hair apart, how does one recreate a character already brought to the big screen by Orson Welles, Peter O'Toole, Sir Ian McKellen and Sir Anthony Hopkins? If Connery was ever daunted by the inevitable comparisons, he is not admitting it. Nor does he *have much time for the pretensions* of "method" acting so beloved of the more self-*important American stars.*

"A lot of actors work from the outside in, and a lot work from the inside out," he says. "I felt I was doing an amalgamation of both. You're standing there in costume. You've got the sword, you've *got the beard, you feel like a* warrior and there's a huge brooding castle in the background. It's uncomfortable. The chairs are all wood, the beds are horsehair. The mistake then is to ask yourself, 'How would this guy think?' *What you have to say is, 'If I'm* going to make this real I have to put some aspect of myself in it, and make it true for me'."

Whether this *Macbeth* will prove true for a mass audience is another matter. Like his father, Connery has a knack for flinty close-ups. He is also a match for Branagh when it comes to *making Shakespeare's calmer* passages work as both dialogue and poetry. But one result of the film's being shot entirely on location in Scotland is *that* its backdrops sometimes look like tourist-board stock footage. Overall, it is more endearing than terrifying, which may not be the accolade one seeks for the first true British thriller.

If Connery hopes *Macbeth will prove his ticket to full-*blown stardom, he is biding his time with it. No one in Hollywood has been shown an early cut, and he doesn't know yet what his next acting job will be. Such a hiatus would be unthinkable for an aspiring Hanks or Hoffman, but Connery *seems unbothered by it.*

Asked about his ambition, he replies in unintended but — surely — revealing oxymoron: "I *think* I'm totally committed," he says. "I love acting, but I do feel there are other things, such as my relationship with my wife and child and to an extent my friends, that are more important."

> 'I love acting, but there are other things in life'

Technically he *does not have a* child yet, but his wife, the actress Mia Sara, is eight months pregnant. They met three years ago on the St Petersburg set of *Bullet to Beijing*, where their co-star *Michael Caine acted as unwitting* matchmaker by offering them both respite from the bitter Russian cold in his imported Winnebago.

Connery hit it off with Caine as his father had decades earlier. When he and Sara were married last year, it was in the Candlelight Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, recommended by Caine from fond experience. When they returned to London, their first stop was a party thrown for *them by Caine at Langan's.*

Sean Connery did not attend the wedding. The gleeful tabloids called it a snub. Jason Connery insists it was his idea. "We didn't tell Dad and we didn't tell Mum *[actress Diane Cil*ento, divorced 24 years ago] because basically they can't stand each other," he says bluntly.

Secretive as the wedding was, a *year later Connery* is taking it most seriously. The only future role he is certain of, he says, is "being a husband and a father". It is not far-fetched to suppose that this earnest-sounding 34-year-*old has formed his views on* fatherhood from his experience of childhood, which included attending a series of expensive boarding schools (Millfield, Gordonstoun) as his own father bestrode the world and topped most sex-symbol rankings. Still, he insists that most of what has been written about his allegedly tricky relationship with the original 007 is myth.

"There have been times when I've felt the pressure of *who my father is,"* he says, remembering his early days at Perth Rep when the local paper would send a photographer round if he so much as rehearsed. "You're under scrutiny much earlier. When you walk in the door people think, *'I wonder if he's going to look* like his dad, or sound like him or have a complex about him'.

"But on the whole I feel as though it's not my problem. In fact it *isn't* a problem. I am Sean Connery's son."

They will not be together at the premiere. Sean *will be in* New York accepting an award and Jason is ready for the next round of "Father Snubs Son" hysteria. As it subsides, they will meet up, as they often do, for 18 quiet holes at Sunningdale or the Sherwood *course in California.*

"If I wanted it I could create it, that whole maelstrom of publicity," says junior. "But you have a choice. I think I learnt that from my father."

● Macbeth *goes on release from today and nationwide in June*

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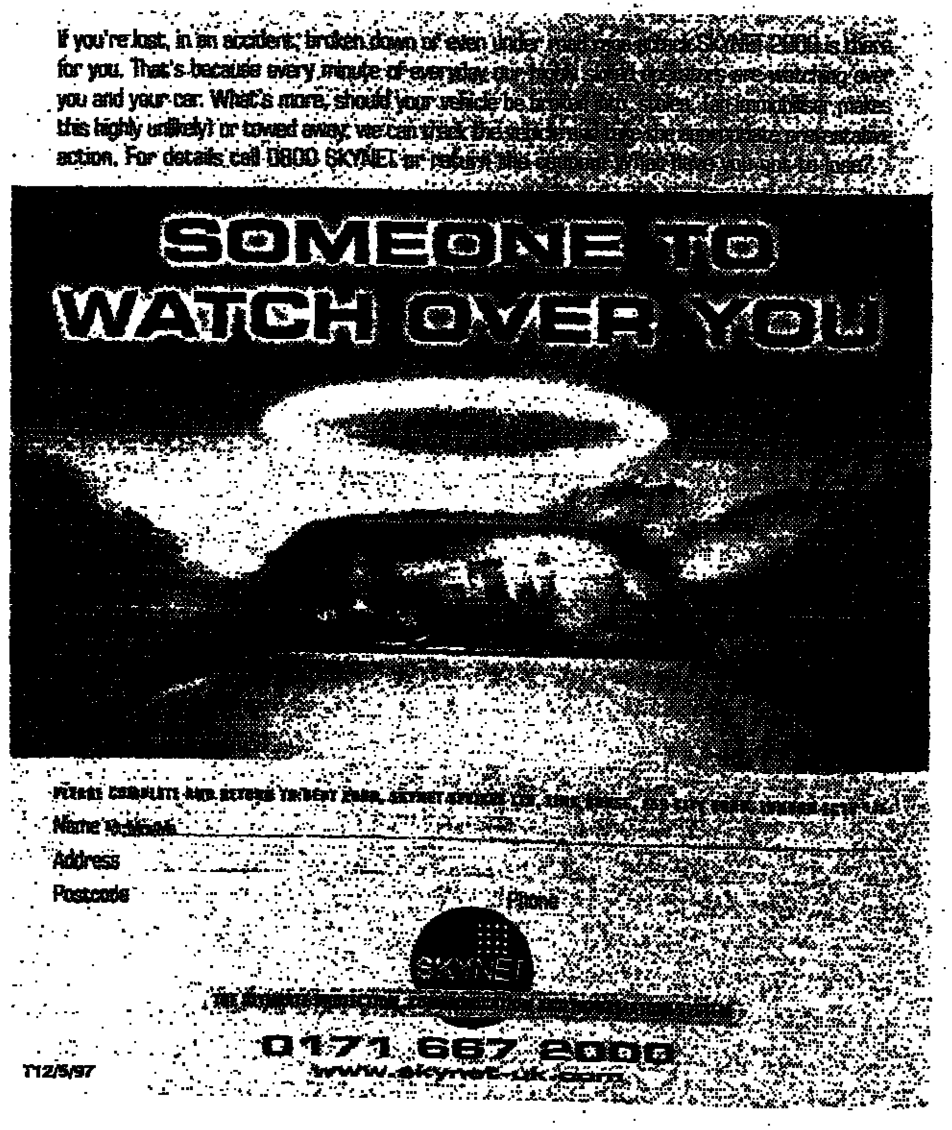

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The very valuable crisis

For modern women, midlife is the last remaining mystery, the age that feminism forgot. Pundits such as Germaine Greer and Gail Sheehy have depicted the years between 40 and 50 as an alarming decade, the adolescence of old age, full of uncontrollable and distressing hormonal disturbance. But in a remarkable book, the Cambridge academic Terri Apter challenges this view. Having interviewed 80 women over four years, she has become convinced that midlife holds the secret of a new kind of fulfilment. She talked to **Grace Bradberry** about her radical theory of midlife as a period of growth, reassessment and renewed confidence

HULTON GETTY

The way in which women cope with their midlife crisis determines how they will cope with menopause

SECRET PATHS
Women in the new midlife

Few psychological terms are flung about so casually as "midlife crisis", particularly where women are concerned. Naturally, we tend to assume that a large body of literature devoted to the subject must exist. In fact, the pain of fortysomething women has been virtually ignored.

Germaine Greer's *The Change* and Gail Sheehy's *The Silent Passage* made it, briefly, a hot topic — yet both discussed midlife largely in terms of the menopause.

Now Terri Apter, a social psychologist, is taking issue with Greer, arguing that midlife crisis is a definite psychological event. How one copes with it determines how one will cope with menopause, not the other way round.

Her criticism is not only that Greer places so much emphasis on the menopause, but also that she turns her own experiences into a universal truth. "There's a sleight of hand where she'll be talking about an experience of menopausal irritation and she doesn't say 'This is my experience.' "

In Apter's own book, *Secret Paths: Women in the New Midlife*, she asserts that between 40 and 50 *all* women go through a period of anger and anxiety. Many are plagued by regret and a sense of failure that they did not manage to "have it all". The good news is that the majority emerge with a better idea of what they want and the determination to follow that through.

The book is not a personal one, and I rather expected Apter, 48, would prove the exception to her own rules. She is American — born in Chicago, although she has lived here since 1971 — and her stark biographical details conjure up a superwoman.

She is a fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, and has been married for 22 years to David Newbury, Professor of Applied Economics at the university. By the time their two daughters, Miranda, 18, and Julia, 14, were born, Apter had published two novels. She then produced two academic works, one on working mothers, the other on the relationship between mothers and adolescent daughters.

One expects a blindingly together, verbally combative whirlwind. Yet the woman who appears is physically slight, with a girlish demeanour and a soft laugh.

By and large, the self-effacing Apter keeps herself out of this book. It soon emerges, however, that she was going through her own crisis while writing it. In one of the few personal passages, she recounts her feelings of inadequacy when visiting her friend Angela Harris, who not only has a family, but a high-powered job in London.

So do women like Angela have doubts? The message of the book is that they do — although in this case Apter never discovered them. "She read the book, and she recognised herself," says Apter. "But she didn't say, 'Oh, no, no, no, I'm not like that at all', although she did admit she had been lucky. So you see, I'm not free from the ghost of the woman who has it all. And I don't think we ever can be."

Apter divided the interviewees into four broad categories, although some fitted more than one. Her first group is the "traditional" women. Having devoted themselves to their families, putting their careers to one side, their particular crisis was to wonder if a happy family was enough. Their alter-egos were the "innovative" women, who pursued tough career paths only to spend their 40s wondering if they wanted to carry on in workplaces tailored to men.

Some of Apter's sample, restricted by their education, had settled for quite narrow lives. These "expansive" women wanted to break out of the groove. The fourth group, the "protestors", felt that they had been thrown into premature adulthood, perhaps by an early pregnancy.

Only one group is not represented — the very poor. A black American told Apter life was too much of a struggle for her to have any such luxurious thing as a crisis. "It was very helpful, if a bit hollowing, to be shown there was a barrier beyond which these things didn't make sense."

Inevitably, Apter's research also led her to question which category she might fall into. "I certainly always *saw* myself as innovative." But as she wrote the book, and faced up to her own regrets, she realised she had lapsed, slipping towards the "traditional". Occasional remarks would pull her up short: "Let's say if 'a family member' praised me for ironing his shirts well."

> 'I just felt everyone else had done the right thing'

This is a revelation indeed. She laughs. "Objectively, I do fulfil traditional roles. But there's a sense that that isn't who I really am — even though I do those things." Apter, it transpires, has the same capacity for deluding herself as her case studies. And like them, she only faced up to the self-deception in her 40s. She also says that, like many of her generation, she believed that "having it all" would be relatively easy.

Just before she was 21, halfway through her second degree, she met her husband. David Newbury was then a young don, and he was keen to marry. Apter was not: "I was really resisting traditional roles. I thought I was extremely independent and I really thought I'd won the women's revolution."

Instead, they moved into a house in Cambridge, marrying five years later in 1975. Ostensibly, Apter was pursuing her own goals, working at her novels. But in her 40s she was to look back and wonder how she could not have noticed that she was slipping into domesticity.

The catalyst was a move to Berkeley, California, where her husband had been appointed visiting professor. She was 38, surrounded by high-achieving women, all talking positively about their lives.

In fact, Apter had not been idle. During her 30s she had written the book on working mothers, then turned it into a PhD. At Berkeley, she taught and began research into adolescent daughters.

But she felt on the fringes of academia, and suddenly this mattered. "I would wake at three in the morning thinking about the gap between where I was and what I'd like to be. I just felt everyone else had done the right thing."

She felt that no matter how good her work, it would never have any clout without an academic post. This seemed out of reach. Even now, she says: "My regret is that I did not establish a structured career. That would have made resisting the more traditional forms of motherhood easier."

But as the book continually points out, you cannot have it all. "The thing about most sacrifices is you sacrifice something *for* something else." If she took on more and more of the domestic roles, it was out of choice. And this is what appears to trouble many of the women in Apter's book. They *did* have choices. Part of the route out of their crisis was to stop focusing on missed opportunities and take up those still on offer.

Apter's husband would say to her: "Do you want to do something different? We'll manage things so you can." But she wasn't sure she wanted a new career — she simply wanted to turn the clock back.

Partly at her husband's urging, however, she did gain a fellowship at Clare Hall in 1990. The routes out of her crisis have not been U-turns, but gentle curves in the road.

But Apter is not entirely an advertisement for her thesis of the bigger and better post-crisis woman: "I still feel there are some regrets that are quite raw and not fully thought out. There's still this fantasy that things might have been different."

● Secret Paths *will be published by W. W. Norton on Thursday, price £9.95*

TOMORROW

Reaching crisis point

Your personal plan for surviving midlife.
Terri Apter's research led her to identify four distinct types of midlife crisis. Tomorrow she outlines these, and offers strategies for approaching the biggest turning-point in any woman's life

ARTS

Geoff Brown reviews the first films in competition at Cannes, including Bruce Willis in the sci-fi thriller, The Fifth Element

Pages 18-19

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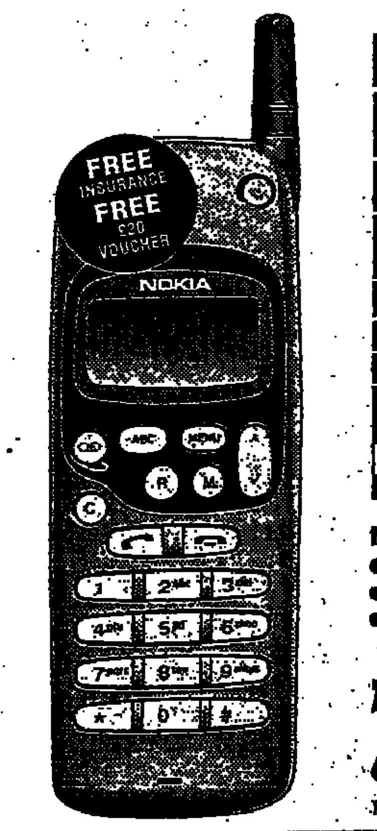

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD

■ MUSICAL

The £10 million Disney musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, comes to the Dominion

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ CONCERT

Have viola, will dazzle: Yuri Bashmet displays his world-class virtuosity at the Barbican

RECITAL: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ THEATRE

At the National Theatre Anastasia Hille stars in a new production of *Marat/Sade*

OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

■ POP

Supergrass try out their new thoughtful sound on the Brixton Academy crowd

GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

Radical recipe for a new British culture

What, given the will, the imagination and a bit of luck, could the Labour Party achieve for the arts in the next five years? A lot is expected because of Labour's track record. The Arts Council weeviled its way into the establishment during the Attlee years; and, with Harold Wilson's blessing, Jennie Lee jumped it into a national prominence which subsequent governments and ministers have built on but not — until the lottery — been able to transform to any similar degree. The time is surely right for a third major leap forward and Chris Smith seems the man to lead the charge.

There are at least three key areas in which the arts could change radically. *First, and by far the* most important, is the task of getting the message, the skills and the opportunities into schools. I'm aware that this has been said many times before — I have said it often myself. But not often enough for it to have had any real effect.

It is time that we stopped being pious and paying no more than lip service to this fundamental idea *and addressed it vigorously* for what it is — the surest method of putting down a foundation for active future participants and knowledgeable future audiences in an area of our national life bound to grow. Whatever this Government does or does not do, broadcasting, and culture in its widest sense including tourism, will increase in importance and wealth. It is now undeniable that the arts are not only good for trade but they are trade.

Every school should have access to instruments which would allow it to form an orchestra, classical or jazz. School libraries should be well resourced and tied in with town and city libraries. Theatre, opera, dance and classical music *groups should tour intensively and* continuously. Access to live performances ought to be part of the curriculum. Writers, singers, *painters, sculptors and architects* must be encouraged in short-term residencies. Directors of film, television and video should be brought in for summer schools. A sort of nationwide arts apprenticeship scheme and one which draws *in children from all backgrounds* should and could be established.

This is not idealistic. It is completely realistic. If we are to make use of our world language and the advantage we have in many of the cultural areas already, *then we simply* have to attend properly and thoroughly to the roots of the matter. Many people of my generation and older still cannot help thinking of the arts as a luxury, a frippery or an extra. How many times do we have to *repeat that more people work in* the arts than work in the steel, coal and car industries combined? How many times do we have to say that the culture/tourist industries bring in £16 billion a year and *rising? We have lost many old* heavy industries. There is everything to be said for developing a new heavy cultural industry which will be *increasingly important* and on a global scale.

Hollywood is a clear example here. Its intensive development and cultivation of film and television has made it the second biggest industry in the USA and yet what is it? Just a bunch of pictures, movies, still often regarded as nothing more than an amusement arcade of the lowest common denominator. But Hollywood saw an opportunity and seized it.

Secondly, we have *to make the* final heave which leaves London a world city but gives real independence and clout to the other great cities in Britain. Glasgow has shown the way and even though it is now struggling, the institutions, *the artists and the work in that city* show what can be done. There are similar stirrings elsewhere but a strategy of decentralisation and a willingness to charge local councils to release already available funds could push what is almost an experiment into a reality. Culture could be one of the great engines of growth in these cities.

None of *this needs massive* extra funding. Any extra funding it does need should come from the lottery. This is my third point. The lottery must be made to serve the arts and not, as at present, the arts serving the *questionable* and highly partial lottery. It must rapidly become much more flexible before the powers that be grow so irritated with its failure to fire properly that more money is moved out to health and other causes which would garner much more popular applause. The lottery has to shift itself away from its rigid regulations and not *only* hold onto but build up its stake for the arts. In this area, a comparatively modest investment can have the most tremendous leverage.

This is not cloud-cuckoo-land. If anyone 50 years ago had prophesied the popularity enjoyed by today's museums and galleries, he would have been ignored or mocked. If in 50 years time we are major players on the world stage then it will only be because of decisions taken now in an area of life — culture — once thought marginal but increasingly more central to the business of people's daily lives. *After all, more than* 600,000 people work in the arts directly.

These are just three preliminary points. There is much more. There are great expectations for a Labour liftoff. Given the mood of the country, the talent already in place and so widely available, and the enthusiasm and intelligence of a new arts team, then there is indeed everything to hope for.

LONDON THEATRE: A major Chekhov play revisited at the Old Vic; a minor Chekhov adapted on the fringe

The pain of laughter

The Seagull
Old Vic

Russians enjoy reminding the English, who still sometimes *think of him* as a fastidious miniaturist specialising in autumnal pastels, that Chekhov is a very funny dramatist. In *The Seagull* almost every character is forlornly besotted with someone who cannot reciprocate; yet the man himself described it as "a comedy with much talk about literature and five tons of love". Given those words and his own status as a comic playwright, you might expect Tom Stoppard's translation to give Chekhov a larger tickling stick than usual.

But Stoppard knows that Russian, and especially Chekhovian, comedy embraces depth and even despair. So does Peter Hall, his director. So does every member of the cast except Janine Duvitski, *who plays Masha's famous* opening line, "I'm in mourning for my life", as a petty boast, and generally comes across as too goofy and trivial to take seriously. But overall this is a *Seagull* beautifully *balanced* between laughter and pain.

Stoppard's text has witty moments — "having no backbone he could bend both ways" neatly mocks Trigorin's propensity for sexual sharing — but it rejects cleverness for clarity, momentum and subtlety of thought and feeling. This gives Hall's cast the chance to bring texture to their *roles: a challenge they accept,* starting with Dominic West's Kostia, fumbling writer and lover, and Victoria Hamilton's Nina, a parallel failure in the emotional and artistic stakes.

West is a big, gangling figure whose wounded-dog looks hide blundering rage, confused ambition and an intense sickness of heart. At first he contrasts strongly with Hamilton's Nina, who hurls herself into the role of the artless fame-freak, falling on her back in excitement at the *prospect of meeting the novel*ist Trigorin. But shallowness vanishes when she reappears in the fourth-act rain. You don't doubt that her blenched, exhausted Nina, with her mewing, seagull-like sobs and *blank, past-caring shrugs,* has traversed the emotional chasms.

Michael Pennington brings out the gulf between the superman of Nina's imagination and the real Trigorin, presenting us with a bashful, insecure creature who patronises Andrew Aguecheek's barber *and gets his droopy* body-language from a similarly nerdish source. His is a brave, interesting performance, but it leaves you asking why he excites such sexual rapacity in Felicity Kendal's Arkadina, *especially as he also looks* older than he should and she makes no great effort to suggest the actress's terror of ageing.

Nevertheless, Kendal has superb moments, notably when a tiny argument about horses suddenly escalates into wails and screeches of dismay and you see the the raw nerves under the blithe surface. But then Hall's production often shows you what people are feeling and failing to say; and not only where the major characters are concerned. Ob*serve the minuscule* flash of jealousy that crosses the face of Anna Carteret's Polina when Arkadina pays an offhand compliment to David Yelland's Dorn, the beloved doctor who has raised studied *indifference to an art form.* That's truthful. That's Chekhovian. That sums up the evening's quality.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

RONALD COOPER

Felicity Kendal (Arkadina) and Michael Pennington (Trigorin) in Peter Hall's staging

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All fear the Russian bore

The Duel
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I WOULD have happily traded in the bottle of Russian vodka *sent to me* by News From Verona Theatre Company if Roger Ringrose and Tim Marchant's adaptation of Chekhov's "short" story had stopped after one, rather than three, hours.

On a wooden seaside promenade fronted by a neat square of pebble beach, there is a lazy clash of personalities between Ivan Layevsky, a dissolute young government official, and Von Koren, an affluent, hard-nosed zoologist. Their differences are hazily mapped over long lunches and picnics in a claustrophobic resort on the *Black Sea. We run* into clouds of ennui, becalmed scenes and fraught-sounding conversations that add up to a lot less than Marchant's direction might imply.

On Layevsky's side there is Samolyenko (played with bluff appeal by Jean-Benoit Blanc), a big-hearted army doctor who lets his alcoholic friend abuse his bar tab. There is also Laura Jones's shallow Nadyezhda, a married woman infatuated with Layevsky, but sitting on several other local indiscretions. "Crippled by civilisation" and the stifling attentions of Nadyezhda and his overbearing mother (Victoria Plum), Layevsky dreams of escaping to St Petersburg.

It is a familiar romantic theme in Chekhov. It is unfortunate, therefore, that Paul McEwan's romantic hero has the sexual charisma of a plucked chicken. There isn't a moment when you wouldn't like to take him outside and shoot him yourself.

Roger Ringrose plays Von Koren, the zoologist, like a *severe prep school house*master. His most interesting contribution is a discussion with Tony Sleman's irritatingly happy Deacon. Here Von Koren argues for natural selection over Christian virtues. Don't let humanity get in the way, especially when it comes to scum like Layevsky. Sure enough, by the time we get to the duel, our theatrical charity has long since departed.

The production ends up in a flurry of needless scene changes designed to give the illusion of expediency. The moral coda, delivered by a chastened and changed Layevsky, that life proceeds by going two steps forward and one step back, could have *fallen* out of a Chinese fortune cookie.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Phoenix rising from the ashes

Hallé/Nagano
Manchester

IN THE five seasons Kent Nagano has now completed with the *Hallé Orchestra*, comment has tended to focus on his interpretative rather than his technical achievement. In converting the Hallé to something closer to his own ideal, Nagano had to reassemble it, and, temporarily at least, lost something vital in the process.

If the Hallé has not recovered the more extrovert aspects of its character it is certainly more at ease both with itself and its principal conductor. Their performance of Mahler's Resurrection Symphony offered abundant evidence of an orchestra with finer tuning, a more accessible and more discriminating range of colour, a clearer texture, and more discipline in general.

The most impressive aspect of the interpretation was the effect made by the one chord, on the last-but-one syllable of the choral part, which marks the climax of the work. The fact that the greatest emotional effort was reserved for that precise moment is not in itself remarkable. But that it should so naturally take its place as the culmination of all that has gone before *it was proof of a* brilliantly executed strategy.

One of the more important items in the strategy was the profiling of the second subject of the first movement, the Resurrection theme, which at one point was preceded by a pause so long that it seemed the performance might not start again. But in general it was not an interpretation to take risks. It was presumably part of the economy that the intervention of the voices would lift the interpretation on to another level. Certainly, *that is what was achieved by* Charlotte Hellekant's firmly inflected *Urlicht*. After some well-managed offstage last-trump effects and an atmospheric birdsong cadenza in the last movement, the eerie entry of the Hallé Choir lifted it yet again.

GERALD LARNER

Grand horizontal

La traviata
Coliseum

ROSA MANNION'S performance in the title role was the main reason for going to Jonathan Miller's production of *La traviata* when it opened the ENO season last September. On revival, almost totally *recast and musically* a good deal more assured than six months ago, Violetta remains the spur.

She is now the American soprano Susan Patterson, making her London debut. *The two Violettas* could not be more different. In Act I Mannion was already a victim, fragile and in need of support. Patterson is almost distant, a Henry James heroine keeping her head above *decadent European driftwood.* Her handling of the act's closing scene was technically unblemished, but chill.

That could well have been part of the game plan. Patterson only began to expose *Violetta's frailty* when Giorgio Germont arrived to confront her. From there the downward slide began. She started to colour Verdi's vocal line so that the first traces of despair emerged and built *towards a deeply felt final act.* Throughout the latter Miller kept her in bed and Patterson is well up to the physical demands of singing prostrate, floating out into the theatre the notes that announce to everyone but herself that she is about to die.

Julian Gavin, the new Alfredo, threw himself with passion into this last encounter. *Earlier he had* successfully portrayed the gauche boy not quite sure what has hit him. Christopher Booth-Jones was a scolding, lightweight Germont père. Sharper performances came from Claire Henry *(Flora)*, *Richard* Van Allan (the Baron) and Anthony Mee (the Viscount).

JOHN HIGGINS

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ARTS
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Nice and easy does it

AMERICAN reviewers had a pleasant shock when Ian Shaw made his debut tour of that country this year. His occasional vocal partner Claire Martin had already proved that the United States has no monopoly on sophisticated female singers, and then along came Shaw, cool and graceful and determined to take on the mantle of Mel Tormé and Mark Murphy.

After a lengthy period of dues-paying on the London circuit, Shaw has reached a new level of maturity in the past year. After a series of albums which perhaps tried too hard to cover as much jazz-pop territory as possible, he has delivered his most focused work in *The Echo of a Song*, a collection of vintage numbers assembled at the suggestion of the late Ronnie Scott.

JAZZ

Ian Shaw
Ronnie Scott's

Some people, unfortunately, would not know the difference between a quality performer and a karaoke machine. For a large part of his set at Scott's club — where he appeared on the same bill as the pianist Monty Alexander — Shaw had to contend with the chatter of a part of the audience more interested in a night out than in listening to the music.

By the end, though, he seemed to have won over many of them. While he may have risked being upstaged by Alexander's showmanship — the pianist hammering out a grandstanding arrangement from Rodriguez's *Concierto de Aranjuez* — his quartet worked its magic on a more intimate scale.

Large stretches of *I Concentrate on You*, explored in a brisk setting by pianist Simon Wallace, bore little resemblance to Cole Porter's original theme, but Shaw's improvisations had their own symmetry. Where he once used to be tempted into one pyrotechnic leap too many, he now brings greater discipline and genuine drama to his art.

Throughout, Duncan Mackay's trumpet solos formed a pungent counterweight to the sure-footed rhythm work of drummer Dave Ohm and bassist Mick Hutton.

CLIVE DAVIS

The Fifth Element, chosen to open Cannes: "Luc Besson has done little to lift this adventure — the most expensive French film ever — beyond the achievements of the *Star Wars* trilogy or *Indiana Jones*"

An anniversary to remember

CINEMA: From futuristic fantasy in New York to harrowing real life in Sarajevo, the opening films in the 50th edition of the Cannes Festival are reviewed by **Geoff Brown**

In an article written in 1958, *The Sunday Times* film critic Dilys Powell recalled how she had once imagined a Mediterranean film festival to be a glittering intellectual and social feast: "something between Plato's Academy and Versailles under 'le roi soleil'." She soon learnt.

Yet if any festival tries to live the high life, it is Cannes. This year is its 50th edition, if one excepts the abortive one-night stand on September 1, 1939, when Hitler's invasion of Poland stole the thunder and reduced the festival to a single screening of Charles Laughton's *Hunchback of Notre Dame*. It took until 1946 for business to be resumed, year upon year (except for 1948 and 1950, when money problems intervened).

Much has changed since then. A small festival for the elite has become a bulging festival for the media army. The salesmen have descended, bringing with them *Snide and Prejudice*, *Topless Women Talk about their Lives*, and other delights of the film market (first established in 1959). Yet still the great, good and not so good waltz up the red carpet every night, tuxedos and designer dresses shining, to watch films competing for the prize of prizes, the Palme d'Or.

Characters in the films themselves are usually not so elegant. Bruce Willis spent much of the opening film, Luc Besson's **The Fifth Element**, acting tough in an orange singlet. Not just any singlet: like all garments in this derivative futuristic twaddle, filmed at Pinewood with piles of French money, the item was designed by Jean-Paul Gaultier. Besson had apparently been nurturing the material since his teenage days in the mid 1970s; but apart from an injection of 1990s camp, the adult Besson has done little to lift this adventure — the most expensive French film ever — beyond the achievements of the *Star Wars* trilogy or *Indiana Jones*.

Willis plays a New York cabbie in the year 2259, when the world faces annihilation from a malevolent planet and a hillbilly thug with half a head of hair (Gary Oldman). The only salvation lies with a group of Egyptian stone totems representing the four elements. No salvation lies ahead for the film, though Milla Jovovich's cover-girl assignments should increase after playing a carrot-haired beauty cooked up in a lab and dressed in nothing but thermal bandages.

How do you properly celebrate the 50th birthday of the queen of all film festivals? It is comparatively easy to arrange the cake's icing: the fireworks, the dance spectacle, the parade of past prizewinners, the grand celebratory dinner. Yet even here problems arose. Ingmar Bergman, chosen to receive a 50th birthday accolade, the Palme of Palmes d'Or, preferred to stay put on his Swedish island. Other luminaries, Clint Eastwood for one, have been unable to add lustre to the overcrowded resort, though the Spice Girls and 21 young British actors and actresses have done their bit for Britain, parading their wares and posing for photographers.

The biggest problem is the quality of the cake, the films themselves. In making his competition selection, Gilles Jacob, Cannes' supreme chief since 1978, suffered political as well as artistic headaches. At first Iran refused to export Abbas Kiorastami's *The Taste of Cherry*, banned at home because of its taboo subject, suicide, though there has since been a change of heart. There is no sign of any shift in China's objection to Zhang Yimou's *Keep Cool*. This hotly anticipated entry was withdrawn by its producer following animosity towards the non-competing *East Palace, West Palace*, a compelling drama of gay desire, fear and loathing in Beijing by the adventurous Zhang Yuan, which was post-produced in France, beyond China's grasp.

The motley jury, which embraces president Isabelle Adjani, Mike Leigh, Gong Li, and the director of *Mars Attacks!*, Tim Burton, still have plenty of films on their hands. Britain at the moment is placed quite strongly, thanks chiefly to Gary Oldman's directorial debut, **Nil by Mouth**. Oldman's film, fierce and compassionate, ripped from his childhood memories of south-east London, needs scissors to help the plot emerge sooner: the first half hour is dominated to an unedifying degree by housing estate roughnecks lounging about spouting F words. After that we get pulled into the drama surrounding Raymond, the volatile husband lit up by drugs and booze (Ray Winstone), Val, the pregnant wife he abuses (Kathy Burke), and Val's kid brother Billy (Charlie Creed-Miles).

For his visual style, Oldman adopts the unadorned, claustrophobic look: a hand-held camera, lots of close-ups and zoom work. You get used to it, and the style pays dividends when the actors, Winstone especially, erupt with uncomfortable force. This is a courageous and honest film: it could not have been easy for Oldman to face family demons in this public fashion.

By comparison Michael Winterbottom's **Welcome to Sarajevo** packs a gentler punch, though there is enough human misery image by image to make the gods weep. This is a version of *Natasha's Story*, the book by ITN's political correspondent Michael Nicholson about the orphanage child he smuggled out of Bosnia. Some images come from archive footage; others recreate with chilling clarity civilians falling to sniper fire, and journalists coping with carnage.

So what modifies the film's impact? Partly casting; partly Frank Cottrell Boyle's script; partly Winterbottom's tendency not to look beyond the surface. Nothing is wrong with Stephen Dillane's reporter (called Michael Henderson); but Woody Harrelson and Marisa Tomei are unhelpful in a film that yearns to do without Hollywood gloss. Boyle's script gives lesser characters perfunctory treatment, and indulges in heavy irony. Still, the film avoids the excess sentimentality of another Sarajevo drama in town, Ademir Kenovic's *The Perfect Circle*.

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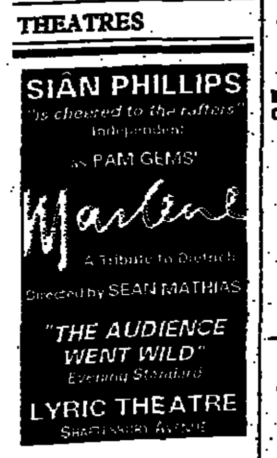

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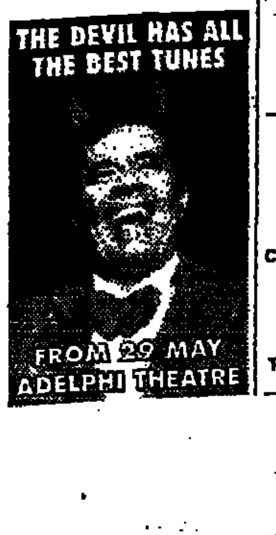

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The Tories who stayed at home

Garret FitzGerald says Labour won surprisingly few converts

To what extent does Labour's massive parliamentary majority reflect a major swing from Tories to Labour, and to what extent it is the outcome of Tories registering protest votes for groups such as the Referendum Party or else staying at home out of unhappiness with the parliamentary party?

The total voting figures reveal a low turnout, and show that the increase in the Labour vote in no case came near to matching the decline in the votes cast for the Conservative and Liberal Democrat candidates. The first surprise is that although both the total population and the adult population of the UK have risen by about one million since 1992, the electorate today is fractionally *smaller* than five years ago. Whatever the reason for this anomaly, the fact that there has been very little change in the electorate makes direct comparisons between the 1992 and 1997 elections quite simple.

The total of votes cast on May 1 was down by two million, a drop of 6 per cent in the turnout. How was this accounted for? Broadly speaking, 4.500.000 people who voted Conservaive in 1992 failed to do so on this occasion, a drop of almost one third. Moreover, one eighth of the 1992 Liberal Democrat voters, 750,000 of them, also abandoned their former allegiance.

What did these five and a quarter million people do with their votes? Well, 800.000, mainly in England, switched to the Referendum Party — and one can be certain that almost all of this batch of switchers were Tories rather than Liberal Democrats. Moreover, votes for other parties and Independents nearly doubled, increasing by 400,000, and at least half of these must have been Tory switchers. Finally, the Labour vote rose by 2,000,000.

How much of this 2,000,000 Labour gain came from the Tories? Clearly, some of it came from Liberal Democrats. Unlike the Tories, the Liberal Democrats had little reason to abstain, so the bulk of the drop of more than 650.000 in that party's vote must have gone elsewhere — and not many Liberal Democrat voters will have plumped for the Referendum Party or similar splinter groups. It seems safe to assume, therefore, that at least 500,000 of these voters switched to Labour, either for tactical reasons, so as to defeat Tory candidates, or because they like Tony Blair's new Labour.

So less than 1,500.000 of Labour's gain can have come from former Tory voters. And, allowing for the 1,000,000 Tory voters who switched to the Referendum Party or to other small parties or Independents, the residue of the 4,500.00 drop in the Tory vote was therefore accounted for by abstentions. In other words, the whole of the two million fall in the total poll was accounted for simply by Tories staying at home.

With barely one Conservative voter in every ten switching to Labour, it is hard to see how the result of this election can reasonably be described as a landslide, in any normal sense of that term. What made it *seem like a landslide, of course,* was the first-past-the-post voting system — as a result of which an overall increase of one sixth in the Labour vote, combined with Tory abstentions, increased Labour's parliamentary representation by as much as a half.

The disproportion between the scale of this Labour gain in seats and the much greater magnitude of the Conservative loss — more than half of Tory MPs lost their seats — was accounted for by the perverse relationship between the Liberal Democrats' votes and their seats.

Losing one eighth of their votes, the Liberal Democrats nevertheless *increased* their representation by a factor of more than 2½, apparently largely because of tactical voting by anti-Tory voters in constitutuencies where Labour was badly placed to defeat the Tory candidate. For once the British electoral system worked in favour of the Liberal Democrats — although, of course, if this election had been held under proportional representation, their 18 seats would have grown not to 46 but to 113!

The significance of all this is that, in terms of votes, Labour's triumph is much more vulnerable to reversal than may have appeared from the way its victory has been reported. True, the disarray into which the Tories have been plunged by their performance in government and their internal divisions may prove too persistent to allow them to recover the ground they have lost within the lifetime of this *Parliament. But if the parliamentary party has the sense* and the luck to choose someone who can lead from the Centre rather than the extreme Right, *it may fairly readily recover the* support of the 3,000,000 Tory voters who effectively went on strike. So, even if at the next election there were to be no great swing back from Labour to the Conservatives, a recovery of the Tory abstentionist and protest votes could go a very long way towards restoring Conservative fortunes.

The election, with its 44.4 per cent Labour vote, was not anything like as decisive and sweeping a victory for Labour as it appears.

The author was Prime Minister of Ireland, 1981-82 and 1982-87.

GENERAL ELECTIONS 1992 & 1997

Votes (millions)

	1992	1997	Change
Conservative	14.05	9.59	-4.46
Labour	11.56	13.55	+1.99
Liberal Democrats	6.00	5.24	-0.76
Nationalists	0.78	0.78	0
Referendum	–	0.81	+0.81
Others	0.44	0.84	+0.40
Great Britain total	32.83	30.82	-2.01
Northern Ireland	0.79	0.79	0
Grand total	33.62	31.61	-2.01
Electorate	43.25	43.15	-0.10
Turnout	77.75%	73.3%	-4.45%

The French may well be about to change their failing government for one that is even worse

How France could sink the euro

William Rees-Mogg

The leading letter in Friday's issue of *Le Figaro* gives some idea of the tone of the French election. "Message to the undecided: in 1993, just four years ago, you atomised the sinister 'Mitterrand generation', with his doubtful suicides and his fortune-tellers, his mistresses . . . his double lives and double dealing, his Tapie, Pelat, Urba-Gracco and Credit Lyonnais, his economic incompetence and all-powerful trade unions, his great works and huge waist . . . For heaven's sake, spare us a return to the past." Yves Michel, the author of this letter, expresses the anger felt by many on the French right about the corruption and incompetence of the Mitterrand years: though of course there has been sleaze on the Right as well.

By new Labour standards, the French Socialist Party ought still to be unelectable. There is the recent memory of the failures of 14 years of a Socialist President. The present leader, Lionel Jospin, is still unreconstructed, rather closer to Michael Foot than to Tony Blair. Even the Social Democratic Austrian Chancellor, Viktor Klima, in praising Blair, had to sidestep the implication that Jospin is "*démodé*". M Jospin has no answers to the questions that have been put to him by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister: How can he finance Socialist policies without higher taxes? How can he prevent illegal immigration without the Pasqua-Debre laws? How can he build Europe in coalition with the anti-European communists? Which side of his party will win the battle over privatisation? There are no good answers; it is almost as though the *Labour Party had fought the 1997* election in Britain on its 1987 manifesto, when the reform of the party had only just begun.

Yet the opinion polls have been moving in favour of the Socialists; it is possible that the next government of France will be a coalition of the Left including Communist ministers. How could this happen? To start with, both the President, Jacques Chirac, and the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, are very unpopular. As the former President Giscard d'Estaing has written, "a majority of the French are dissatisfied with the way they are being governed".

This is very like the resentment against John Major's administration, but in some ways it is worse. *France has very high unemployment*: about 70 per cent higher than Britain's. It also has very high taxation: about 25 per cent higher than Britain's. The Conservatives had been in power for 18 years; the Gaullists have had a majority in the Assembly for only four years, and have held the Presidency for only two. The Gaullists have governed worse, broken more promises and become more unpopular more rapidly than John Major.

President Chirac called the election a year early because he thought his party would do worse the longer he waited. *The reason for that is the* need to reduce the government deficit to meet the Maastricht criteria. The programme of austerity and deflation comes at a time when one French worker in eight is already unemployed. Alain Juppé's campaign theme comes down to this: "Things are bad now, and if you re-elect us, we will make them much worse."

The Socialists may be incoherent, but the Facists, however unpleasant, are not. Already public opinion polls are giving the National Front 16 per cent of the vote on May 25, which *is* the first ballot. Jean-Marie Le Pen has coined the phrase "better Jospin than Juppé", and has decided that National Front candidates will stay in for the second ballot, taking votes from the government candidates.

The strongest issues for the National Front are unemployment and immigration. Jacques Chirac promised to reduce unemployment as President; *he has not even tried to do* so. The Government has introduced severe laws to stop illegal immigration: it has played the anti-immigrant card, but rather clumsily.

Indeed, *Jean-Louis de Brie, the* Interior Minister, has had to apologise for the anti-immigrant remarks he made at the start of the campaign. He said on April 28: "Will you accept that foreigners *should come to your* home, instal themselves there, open your Frigidaire and help themselves?" He now says he meant to refer only to illegal immigrants. Even so, *he has shown willingness* but not the ability to try to beat the National Front at its own game. If his Frigidaire sound-bite is not racist, I do not know what would be.

In this strange election, there are many cross-currents. Significant supporters of the government parties, including Phillippe Séguin, Alain Madelin and Charles Pasqua, are opposed to the Juppé regime. They offer an alternative on the Right, but if the Socialists win the election, it will be too late for them, as well as for Juppé himself. There is growing national resentment at the arrogance and élitism of the French political class. One candidate has been attacked as "enarque, mondain et parachuté", a graduate of the Ecole *Nationale, and an outsider. The real* France, "la France Profonde", has come to distrust and dislike the political class. *As Giscard has said*, "The French wish to be governed in another way".

The election has already become venomous enough; there is no way, yet, of knowing who will be the victor on June 1. My own feeling is that once an election starts to slide away from a government, it usually goes on sliding. When President Chirac called this premature election, the first polls showed a government majority of around 40 seats; now that is down to zero. If Giscard *is right*, the French may have decided to change their government, even to one which could be considerably worse. For the French to vote for Lionel Jospin is a temptation of *despair rather than an expression of* hope.

Yet this is a very important election. The French Left is wholly committed to reducing unemployment. The propaganda talks of 700,000 new jobs. That cannot be achieved without accepting a higher deficit than the Maastricht 3 per cent; nor can the other Socialist promises be kept. It is a question of priorities. Lionel Jospin favours the euro in theory, but has promised to put employment first; he will depend in the Assembly upon the vote of Communists who oppose the euro as such. If on June 1 it comes *clear that* the French have taken Jean-Marie Le Pen's advice, "better Jospin than Juppé", France will not be able to join the euro on anything like the *Maastricht terms. The* exchange dealers will sell francs and buy marks. The British Government may be spared a difficult choice. The election is depressing and may be tragic, but it could decide the future of the European Union.

An activist leads the charge

Peter Riddell finds Robin Cook looking forward to changes at the Foreign Office

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

For twenty years, a relic of empire, an 1877 portrait of General Ranajee, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of Nepal, in full dress and sword in hand, has hung over the mantlepiece facing the Foreign Secretary's desk. It was chosen by David Owen, Labour's last Foreign Secretary, to replace one of Palmerston put there a decade earlier by George Brown. But Robin Cook, the new occupant of that most elegant of Whitehall offices, is having the *picture taken down*: "I *want* something that doesn't look back to the 19th century but is looking forward."

This symbolises Mr Cook's brisk determination to make a fresh start, as he *emphasised when* I *saw him on* Friday. Like so many new ministers, he is still in the first flush of enthusiam about his new office, relishing the chance to use the levers of power after so long in opposition. Never lacking confidence in himself, he will today launch a grandly titled Mission Statement to proclaim his new priorities.

Mr Cook is Labour's 11th Foreign Secretary — enough for a cricket team, he remarks, though he would not be happy with all his team-mates. They have been a motley bunch, from Ramsay MacDonald (who combined the post with the premiership in 1924), via the giant Ernest Bevin in the late 1940s, the hapless Herbert Morrison (at least in that post), the exuberant George Brown and the avuncular James Callaghan to the brash David Owen. Mr Cook, a critic of some of them in his unilateralist days, accepts that it is hard to define a distinctively socialist foreign policy from this record, and he is therefore reluctant to define a specifically "new" Labour foreign policy.

But reflecting a longstanding Labour belief in a moral and ethical approach, he talks about "solidarity at an international level and interdependence". Today's statement will emphasise the global environment (particularly climate change), human rights and controls on arms exports. A moratorium on British use of land mines has already been announced, and a review is under way on sales of arms to Indonesia. This will be a test of the relative strengths of the contending schools of human rights and trade-comes-first, and it will be closely watched in many quarters.

There are echoes of *David Owen* in Mr Cook's desire to open up the Foreign Office, breaking down hierarchies, opening up communications and the like. Sir David Puttnam has even been commissioned to make a video to be sent to missions abroad. Mr Cook is backing a new "offshore" — and independently financed — Foreign Policy Centre, to bring together academics, outside specialists and commentators to provide alternative policy advice. When I suggested that Chatham House (the Royal Institute for International Affairs) was supposed to perform that role, he replied: "With no disrespect to that most august institution, I want something a little more questioning, more probing and more irreverent."

But his most important test will be Europe. Mr Cook is exploiting the goodwill that exists towards a new administration that is "willing to negotiate in earnest and to make a success of negotiations rather than *heckling from down the table* and seeking to undermine negotiations". Mr Cook talks of a "dramatic" response and "great enthusiasm" on his trips to Paris and Bonn. However, all *new Foreign Secretaries sound* optimistic about building a new relationship with France and Germany to create a Big Three, and they have all been disappointed. Mr Cook sounds almost like a Conservative of the less sceptical era before Margaret Thatcher's Bruges speech.

Both Europeans and Americans will be pleased that he has no hang-ups about the "special relationship". Instead, he describes the alleged British choice between the Atlantic and Europe as an "absolutely pointless dichotomy. Britain is going to be a more valued, and valuable, ally of America if it is a nation that carries influence in Europe". However, he stresses the affinity between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton, and his own similarities of approach with Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State: "We share an activism in our foreign policy."

But the problems at the Foreign Office, and many policies, are the same as they were under the Conservatives. Enlargement of the European Union, reform of the common *agricultural policy and completion of* the single market will be no easier to achieve just because there is a new British Government. Mr Cook still has to produce something for the fishing industry on quota-hopping. But instead of threatening to block agreement at the Amsterdam summit, he talks more guardedly of the need for progress on the issue then.

Mr Cook says that if we want progress it is "probably better not to shout 'No' at everything". He is hoping that Britain will be given a proper legal basis for retaining external border controls. He is willing to consider more co-operation on drugs and international crime. But he is as wary as the Tories of the general flexibility clause proposed by France and Germany to allow an inner core of nations to develop new arrangements under the EU's umbrella. He also opposes any moves towards turning the EU *into* a *defence organisation*, or *undermining* foreign policy co-operation. Under the Cook approach, Britain might be a more harmonious member of the EU, but it will still not be in *the inner core*.

Robin Cook remains a sceptic about European monetary union. When I suggested that Gordon Brown's decision last Tuesday to give the Bank of England operational responsiblity for setting interest rates could open the way to British participation, his reply was an unequivocal no. "Gordon and Tony both made it very plain that it was a decision about the Bank and interest-rate policy in Britain, and in no way prompted by, or to be seen as, a step towards monetary union." While not ruling out participation in the current Parliament, he repeats his campaign refrain that it is "unlikely". Mr Brown, however, wants to keep open that option. Watch for skirmishes here — and possibly the key battle of this Government.

Mr Cook wants to remain involved in domestic politics despite the long periods of travelling. Of course, he will have Mr Blair's ear, since much of the travel is with the Prime Minister. He is also on Mr Blair's new strategy committee, and is represented on the daily co-ordination meetings chaired by Peter Mandelson. And he is keen to press his views on constitutional change, particularly electoral reform.

What Mr Cook really wants is the wider influence of Bevin or Callaghan. Despite his own left-wing past, Mr Cook says that Bevin is the Labour Foreign Secretary he admires most. Perhaps he ought to find a portrait of Bevin for the empty space over his mantlepiece — an acceptable "old" Labour hero for the Blairite era.

THE TIMES DIARY

Own goal

RIPPLING through the classics libraries of Europe is the unusual sound of mulish laughter. A stylish *hoax has been perpetrated* on that most dour of German publications, *Der Neue Pauly*, the classical encyclopedia founded in Stuttgart in 1839 by the philologist and notorious party bore August Pauly.

News of the trick emerged when a fax arrived at Pisa's Biblioteca della Normale from the hoaxer, signing himself M. Mei, who is believed to be someone once slighted by the Pauly pointyheads.

There in column 895 of the first volume of the latest *Neue Pauly* is the entry for "Apopudobalia", a Greek word roughly translatable as "football". "An ancient sport." pronounces *Pauly*, "probably an early form of the modern football, although the details are not known. In fourth century BC Corinth, in the Gymnastika of Achilleus Taktikos there are the 'andres apopudobalontes' ('men who hit the ball with their feet')."

According to the bogus entry, a post-Ciceronian document refers to leading "apopudobalontes", and in the first and second centuries AD, the sport was taken by the Roman *legions to Britain, from where it* spread still further. Despite its enormous popularity, it was condemned in early Christian writings and does not appear after the fourth century AD.

Classic display of skills

In the brief bibliography ending the entry, three authors are listed: A. Pila, B. Pedes and M. *Sammer. In Latin, pila means* ball and *pedes* means foot. Matthias Sammer currently plays in defence for Borussia Dortmund and Germany.

● *The latest to jump from the Tory bridge is Steve Hilton, 27, who helped to run the Tories' disastrous election advertising campaign from Central Office. Tutored in the dark arts by Maurice Saatchi, he was credited with much of the work on the "Labour's tax bombshell" campaign in 1992 and the demon eyes last year. Now, however, he is preparing to leave his mentor's company, M&C Saatchi, to form a rival with friends. Doubtless it will be joining the queue to bid for the Tory account for the next election.*

Horseplay

NOWHERE was the social shift of the past ten days more obvious than at Badminton on Saturday. Strolling among the country sport lovers with his bodyguards, ignoring the anti-hunting stands, was the new Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook. Though a noted racing fan, his love of three-day-eventing is something quite new.

Meanwhile, eyeing him jealously through the crowd was Sebastian Coe, who was ousted as Tory MP for Falmouth and Camborne, and who was watching his own horse tackling the cross-country.

It's got to be

EXPECTATIONS were low at Gordon Brown's drinks party for Treasury officials and journalists on Friday evening. In a week in which the talk had been of no lunching and government austerity, Brown, whose reputation is that of joyless roundhead-in-chief, had capped it all by saying his bash would be financed out of his own rather than the public pocket.

The gloom deepened when guests arriving in Brown's vast new drawing room saw no sign of *the small table in the far corner* from which the Treasury bean-counters have traditionally permitted meagre rations and abysmal vintages to be dispensed. Yet strangely, *Brown was aglow*.

The reason quickly became apparent when he pointed to a door leading off the drawing room. There was a whole room filled with cases far *more palatable than the* Treasury ever provided. "If this is what they mean by lifting the dead hand of Treasury dogma and private-public partnership," said one of the guests, "long may it continue."

"I'm programming it to kick over the board and go off in a huff"

● *In Washington last week, John F. Kennedy Jr. was working out in the gym of the Four Seasons hotel. In front, a woman grinding away on the treadmill spotted the hunk's reflection in the mirror, turned to stare and came crashing off the machine. Biceps Kennedy just kept on flexing.*

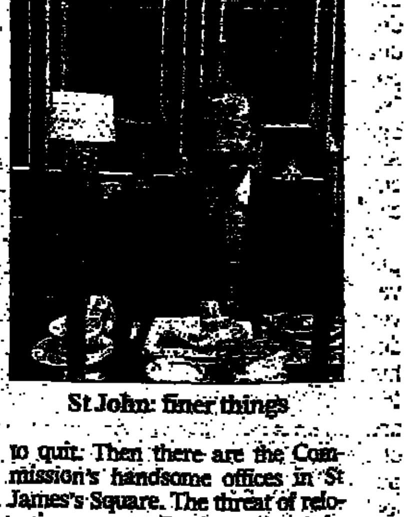
Fawsley towers

CHIEF among the Tory leftovers that Labour is keen to shift is Lord St John of Fawsley, chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission. The new custodians of the Department of National Heritage would prefer a chairman with fewer Tory affiliations, political and cultural.

Their task, however, may not be easy. Fawsley has three years left on his contract, and when determined can be harder to budge than egg on a silk dressing-gown. Time then for some lateral thinking.

Labour is wondering if cutting down on his perks, such as his government car, might encourage him to quit. Then there are the Commission's handsome offices in St James's Square. The threat of relocation to, say, Portland House in Stag Place, home of the modish Millennium Commission and Arts Council Lottery Board, may well be enough either to send Fawsley packing or at least ensure a sudden conversion leftwards.

Perhaps that new Labour purple wasn't so *bad after all*.



St John: finer things

P·H·S

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

Another papal milestone in Lebanon

Many well-wishers have argued that the Pope, now 76 and in uncertain health, should travel less. They have only to look at his last two overseas tours — to Bosnia and Lebanon — to see why John Paul II still believes in his mission to bring healing and harmony to lands wracked by hatred, and why he is right. His visit to Beirut is one of the most important he has ever made. Acclaimed by a crowd of 300,000 people, the largest gathering Lebanon has ever seen, the pontiff has preached reconciliation and renewal, freedom and dignity. He has been a true bridge-builder, helping to reconstruct the links between Christianity and Islam in Lebanon, where the badge of faith has not been a symbol of piety but a flag of civil war. His reception by Maronite, Druze, Shia and Sunni leaders is a confirmation that Lebanon's long conflict is over, and that the nation may, at last, be at peace with itself.

The importance of the Pope's visit lies not only in the spiritual comfort it brings to an embattled Christian community that has seen its temporal power eclipsed and its spiritual values disfigured; it is because in Lebanon, as in Ireland, religion still implies political allegiance. The Pope had therefore to tread a careful line in his pronoucements; for whatever he said could have been taken by the former warring communities either as support for their embattled positions or betrayal of their cause. In fact, despite infirmity, he demonstrated all the political agility which have made him one of the most influential Popes of this century.

He told the Lebanese that the sufferings of the past years had not been in vain and they would strengthen Lebanon's freedom and unity. He called on the country to recover "total independence, complete sovereignty and unambiguous freedom". As everyone in the crowd knew, Lebanon is not yet free. It is a fiefdom of Syria, whose 35,000 troops and military satraps have the final say in what the Government of Rafik Hariri, the energetic Muslim Prime Minister, can do. And no community resents this more bitterly than the Christians.

The Pope, whose conviction that Christian communities must have political freedom was forged in his Polish homeland in the days of communism, was able to direct his remarks as much at Israel, which maintains a border occupation zone in the south, as at Syria. He did not explicitly support the call for withdrawal made by Lebanese bishops after a Vatican synod in 1995. But his remarks will give Lebanese Christians the same comfort that his anti-communist stance gave to embattled East Europeans in the days before the fall of the Berlin Wall. The message to both Jerusalem and Damascus is that they should halt their proxy war in Lebanon, restore the country's long lost sovereignty and allow the internal healing process, which has led to such a remarkable economic recovery, to be completed without interference.

Such hopes are bound to be disappointed until Israel and Syria are ready to make peace with each other. Dennis Ross, the indefatigable American Middle East envoy, has returned to the region for the second time in a month, and is again suggesting that the stalled peace process can yet be restarted. Encouragingly, despite the pessimism on all sides, both Arabs and Israelis appear willing to make one more effort. It will, however, be a long time before this encompasses Lebanon. Meanwhile, the Pope has counselled continued patience and fortitude for Lebanese, Christians and Muslims. The intervention of Syria ended their civil war; the best way of convincing Damascus that its troops no longer need to patrol the streets is to continue the reconciliation and physical rebirth of a once devastated country. The Pope's visit has played its part.

NO PEACE, NO PRIVILEGE

Sinn Fein can be heard only when their guns fall silent

Those who wish to take advantage of democracy's privilege must abide by its decency. Sinn Fein may have secured 16 per cent of the popular vote in Northern Ireland and two MPs; but Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams are not entitled to the same benefits as other members of the Commons as long as the party they lead continues to support the IRA's armed struggle. The idea that republicanism's two most senior strategists should enjoy Westminster's facilities while their associates continue to prosecute a murderous campaign to undermine democracy is insupportable.

During the election campaign, republican terrorists paralysed Britain's transport system and grievously wounded a female police officer in Londonderry. Only last Friday an off-duty RUC officer was murdered by criminals who can only operate with the IRA's active conivance. Until the republican movement has moved away from violence, credibly and completely, it cannot expect to have its spokesmen indulged.

Sinn Fein attempted to woo nationalist voters during the general election by dishonestly diluting the party's abstentionist stance. In the past, Sinn Fein MPs have not taken their place in the Commons because they do not recognise the legitimacy of Westminster rule; now they plan to take advantage of a presence in Parliament while still formally refusing to take their seats. Although they continue to decline to take the oath of allegiance which would enable them to sit in the Commons, they believe they are nevertheless entitled to all the other facilities of the House, from catering to computing.

The Serjeant at Arms has ruled they are within their rights. These rules are wrong; they were never intended to allow entry to those denying democratic freedom themselves. Apart from the security implications of giving terrorism's champions the run of the Commons, Sinn Fein MPs should not be able to masquerade as legitimate representatives.

Denying Adams and McGuinness access to Westminster may allow them to grandstand outside and claim the attention of the cameras for the day, but it is more important for the British state to affirm that politicians who support violence cannot escape the consequences of their actions. Nor can voters who wish to be represented at Westminster escape the consequences of rejecting constitutional nationalism

If Sinn Fein is perceived not to be suffering for its support for violence, then misguided elements within the majority Unionist community may draw the melancholy lesson that they too can use force, or threaten its use, to strengthen their position. With the gravest test of the marching season, the Drumcree parade, only weeks away, any weakening in the face of armed republicanism will only make the chance of a peaceful resolution to the contentious march less likely.

In its first days in office, the Labour Government has shown itself astute in its policy towards Northern Ireland. An early and positive meeting with the Irish Prime Minister and a more assertive approach to parades have been balanced by cordial contacts with the Unionist leader David Trimble and a renewed insistence on a sincere ceasefire from the IRA before Sinn Fein can enter all-party talks. Labour's landslide emboldened some republicans to believe their day had come. Mr Blair should use his own good sense and affirm that Sinn Fein can be heard there only when the guns have been silenced.

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

This grey panther generation takes grey pooches for walkies

Humans are not alone in living longer and ageing more slowly. Man's best friend is keeping him company on his extended walk into the sunset. A survey published today demonstrates a shift in the ageing pattern of dogs. About a third of the UK's dog population of 6.5 million is now classified as "senior", that is, in dogged euphemism, aged 7 to 8 or older, depending on breed. And as with humans, the proportion of elderly has increased, is increasing and will continue to increase.

This survey challenges with graphs and pie-charts of age profiles the notion that a year in human age is equivalent to seven years for dogs. The truth is more complex. A dog aged one is already the equivalent of a human at 18, at eight its age equals 56, and at 16 it equals 96. The pet food manufacturers are launching a senior dog food on the back of these statistics. And with it they have published a book giving advice on how to look after the older dog. This includes massage of an Alexander hound technique, hot water bottles for stiff joints, regular grooming to increase circulation and sensible (ie brief and undemanding, without too many rabbits) exercise for older dogs.

It is natural and comforting that man and dog should age together. Some old dogs are already learning new prosthetic tricks equivalent to Zimmer frames. Other older watchdogs have developed into pooch potatoes so that the only thing that they watch is television. More would undoubtedly be sent to the fashionable new profession of pet psychiatrists, except that most dogs have been trained to know that they are not allowed to go on the couch.

The connection between man and dog has always been intimate. Jane Carlyle once complained that her household's infatuated little beast danced around Thomas Carlyle on its hind legs as she ought to and could not: "He feels flattered and surprised by such unwonted capers to his honour and glory." Dogs and owners are bound by a tie more intimate than most ties in this world. And yet, outside that tie of friendly fondness, each is insensible to all that makes life significant to the other. Man cannot understand the rapture of old bones in bin-liners or lamp-posts and trees: dogs miss the delights of literature and art.

This greying of the British dog population is bringing huge profits to the veterinary profession, just as the ageing of the human population brings problems to the National Health Service. Urban humans are gradually being made to become more responsible about the mess and noise that their dogs make. While humans who work with dogs may have become less ruthless about putting them down as soon as they become no use for work. Dog has always been a parable as well as a companion. So there is no reason why an old dog should not now teach man new tricks about age.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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BBC's pursuit of the young and the quality of its output

From Mr David Lowe

Sir, I have been making radio programmes for the BBC and the independent local radio sector since 1981. In recent years, however, I have witnessed first hand the often undignified scramble for ever younger audiences.

At the same time, I have looked on with an increasing sense of helplessness as the more mature and more discerning listeners and viewers have been systematically sacrificed on the altars of "yoof-culture", positive discrimination, tokenism and political correctness.

Now, to add insult to injury, Michael Jackson, the new chief executive of Channel 4, criticises his former employer, the BBC, for still being "weak" in talking to young people (report, May 7; see also leading article, May 8). In an attempt to bring some level of meaning to his argument, he has thrown in the now obligatory sociopolitical mantras about women and the BBC's perceived southern England bias.

What these criticisms fail to take into account is that, while young people are out clubbing and pubbing, many older and more discerning listeners and viewers are channel-hopping in an attempt to find something — anything — of relevance to their eyes and ears. Surely substance should be the name of the game: the kind of substance that once helped to create for British radio and television a global reputation for excellence.

The largest single generation this century — the baby-boomers — is rapidly approaching retirement age. Yet its share of the radio and television cake is being eroded at such a rate that it may disappear well before they reach that stage.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LOWE,
8 Windsor Close, Torquay, Devon.
May 8.

From Mr Michael Jackson

Sir, Your leading article, "Unusual channels", gave an extremely partial account of comments I made about the BBC at a press conference on Tuesday. In fact I went out of my way to say that I believe the BBC is in very good creative shape and, as you reported (May 7), that I supported the recent changes in the BBC structure.

My comments on the BBC's difficulties with certain audience groups were simply a statement of fact about something of which the BBC is aware and is addressing.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL JACKSON,
c/o 201 Ashmore Road, W9.
May 9.

From the Chief Executive of BBC Broadcast

Sir, The BBC is a house of many mansions and Brenda Maddox (Media and Marketing, May 7) should not make an assumption that a door that opens for a departing executive does not admit fresh incoming talent on the counterswing.

Not to detract from Michael Jackson's skills, the raft of success enjoyed by BBC Television over the past few years has been achieved by close teamwork involving a great many people. BBC1 has stabilised its audience share and narrowed the gap with ITV, BBC2 has outpaced Channel 4 and the awards have flooded in — 12 out of 16 from Bafta alone last week.

Our rivals are bound to raid our talent locker. But the BBC is a vast community of creative people, constantly being refreshed at every level — not least at the top by such recent recruits as Paul Jackson and Jane Root from the independent sector and Roger Wright from Deutsche Grammophon.

Yours faithfully,
WILL WYATT,
Chief Executive,
BBC Broadcast,
Broadcasting House,
Portland Place, W1.
May 9.

From Dr David Brancher

Sir, You report today that the BBC is moving *Panorama* aside to make way for a sitcom. And its reason, it seems, is to maintain audience figures against commercial television.

Surely there is a better rationale for the existence of a public channel than the mere counting of eyeballs. If the BBC cannot find one, I, for one, am ready to vote against the licence fee.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. BRANCHER,
Ashfield,
Albany Road, Abergavenny, Gwent.
May 8.

When to prosecute

From Mr Michael Gould

Sir, You report (May 8) that Sheffield City Council did not consider fraud perpetrated against it by nearly 80 of its employees to be a serious enough reason to sack those concerned. The police, in turn, appear to have taken the view that if the frauds were not serious enough to warrant sacking, the Crown Prosecution Service was unlikely to prosecute.

Most criminal proceedings are commenced by the police. The CPS will continue the proceedings if there is sufficient evidence and if it is in the public interest to do so.

Generally, the graver the offence the less likely it is it would not be in the public interest to prosecute or continue a prosecution. The courts regard breach of trust cases, such as theft from or deception of an employer, in a particularly serious light, which is reflected in sentencing in such cases.

Sheffield City Council may be content to employ fraudsters, but does the CPS in Sheffield really not regard it as in the public interest to prosecute in such cases? If the CPS would generally regard it as being in the public interest, why are Sheffield police allegedly advising the council to the contrary?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL GOULD
(Senior lecturer),
Staffordshire University,
Law School,
Leek Road, Stoke on Trent, ST4.
May 8.

Cherie Blair picture

From Mr Neil Addison

Sir, The disgraceful decision, in my view, of many newspapers (and TV news programmes) to use a photograph of Cherie Blair in a nightgown in her own home, will hopefully be the last example of intrusive journalism.

Under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, due to come into force shortly, Mrs Blair would be entitled to take out injunctions against the editor of any newspaper (or indeed TV programme) that might consider publishing similarly intrusive photographs in the future. Breach of such an injunction will be punishable by up to five years' imprisonment. Photographers will also be liable to arrest for criminal harassment.

Proper investigative journalism is a public good, but besieging a private house in the hope of catching individuals in an off-guard moment cannot be in the public interest.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL ADDISON (co-author,
Blackstone's Guide to the Protection from Harassment Act, 1997),
West Road Chambers,
148 West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.
May 6.

Payment of pensions

From Mr A. T. Clark

Sir, Some ten years ago you were kind enough to publish a letter from me opposing attempts by the DSS to persuade pensioners to adopt the "direct credit to bank" method of payment of state pensions. I have recently received a similar exhortation from my bank.

Banks, in my view, should not advocate a practice which — since retirement pensions credited in this way are paid four weeks in arrear — loses their customers money. However, there is another important objection.

Many banks have closed their rural branches and their place as a source of cash has been largely taken by post offices. The commission received for acting as agents of the Government makes this role worth the post offices' while.

If many bank customers respond positively to renewed "poaching", the result can only be a further decline in the number of rural post offices.

Yours faithfully,
A. T. CLARK,
Winterseeds, Church Path,
Shipton-under-Wychwood,
Oxfordshire.
May 7.

From Mr Ernest F. Smith

Sir, On April 19 I received from the Paymaster General's Office the annual notification of the amounts of my Civil Service pension and tax deducted during the year ended April 5, 1997, together with the amount of my pension for the forthcoming year. Within the accompanying correspondence there was a note to the effect that from April 1, 1997, the work of the PGO had been privatised.

Perhaps, in view of the recently publicised additional costs, running into hundreds of millions of pounds, following privatisation of information technology in the Inland Revenue and the Child Support Agency (report, Interface, April 16) I should not have been surprised that I was sent, in separate envelopes, two identical notifications.

During the past 12 years in which I have received a pension, I cannot recall any error of omission or commission by the civil servants of the PGO. Is it too much to hope that the credit to my bank account will also be duplicated?

Yours truly,
ERNEST SMITH,
84 Middleton Road,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex.
May 5.

Post-election 97

From Mr Julian Nicol

Sir, At last the nation has departed the hustings and society can return to its relatively normal pastime of attacking the Government.

However, it appears from *The Times* (reports, leading article and letters, May 7) and other newspapers that Mr Brown is to be congratulated for his innovation in yielding control of interest rates to the Bank of England. Never again will a Chancellor be accused of creating an electoral boom.

His close friend the Prime Minister could earn even more points by further innovation. May I suggest that Mr Blair proposes legislation that will create fixed-term parliaments, in line with other major democracies. This would surely rid the population of the nauseating media speculation of "when will Mr Blair name the day?" and allow those who wish to book long vacations.

Come on, Prime Minister, do the decent thing and put May 2, 2002, in all our diaries.

Yours,
JULIAN NICOL,
70 Dale Street, York.
May 7.

From Mr Paul G. Chadwick

Sir, The black and white information posters used at polling stations convey a style that has not much changed since the beginning of the century, when hot-metal type faces were used.

Laser printers, for example, have transformed the look of the printed page with a huge choice of type faces, colours, styles and layouts.

Yet, looking at last week's polling-station poster, one would assume that whoever is responsible for their production is unaware of this graphic revolution.

Time for a change?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CHADWICK,
45 Empress Road, Derby.
May 6.

From Mr J. B. Hughes

Sir, As the Church of England has been described as the Tory Party at prayer, must we now expect an even further decline in church attendances?

Yours faithfully,
J. B. HUGHES,
Hope House,
Hope Cove, Kingsbridge, Devon.
May 4.

From Mrs P. E. Denyer

Sir, A vote of thanks is due to your journalists, photographers and cartoonists for the fun and laughter they have given to the campaign.

Yours etc,
P. E. DENYER,
Nimrod,
Nursery Close,
Horsell, Woking, Surrey.

Badger cull

From Mr Richard Micklethwait

Sir, Your report, "Vets back demand for badger cull to save cattle from TB" (May 6), reminded me of a meeting I attended a couple of years ago where the Ministry of Agriculture gave a presentation of what seemed to me to be a mix of bad science and bad politics to explain the increase of TB in this area.

I came away totally unconvinced that badgers were the real cause, but was subsequently impressed with the suggestion of a farmer's wife, that TB only takes hold when the cattle's immune system is depressed, as the bacilli are extremely common.

Such low immunity may occur in cattle treated with a particular long-term worming compound based on an organophosphate. This compound is so effective that the residual insecticide in cowpats prevents them being broken down as rapidly as usual. The immune system of badgers, which root in the cowpats for food, may then in turn be suppressed.

I do not believe the increasing incidence of TB is likely to be solved by eliminating badgers, whose responsibility has been researched, as your report states, since the 1970s but is still unproven.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MICKLETHWAIT,
Penhein,
Nr Chepstow, Monmouthshire.
May 6.

From the Administrator of the People's Trust for Endangered Species

Sir, In fairness to all our supporters I must point out that the badger census to which your report refers was not, as stated, commissioned by the previous Government, but by this charity.

Aware of the pressing need for such a survey and the apparent reluctance of others to undertake it, we commissioned Professor Stephen Harris at Bristol University to carry it out.

The results will be published in September, when accurate information about badger numbers will at last be available. Until then we remain unsure as to whether the number of badgers in the UK as a whole is declining or rising.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE KEEBLE,
Administrator,
People's Trust for Endangered Species,
15 Cloisters House,
8 Battersea Park Road, SW8.
May 7.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Assessing value of evolution theory

From Mr Alan Geal

Sir, Mr Peter Talbot Willcox (letter, May 6) avers that "Evolutionism (*sic*) has become a dogma based upon inadequate knowledge". Although I cannot disagree with his contention that evidence of morphological adaptation, as in the Caribbean lizards' legs (report, May 1), does not necessarily, in itself, corroborate evolutionary processes, his depiction of the intellectual nature of scientific theories may be erroneous.

The significance of the theory of evolution resides in its explanatory power: quite simply, the theory is the most cogent and expansive description of an aspect of biology that we have yet formed. Unlike dogmas, which are based on *a priori* principles and exclusively derive their power from authority, scientific theories are demonstrably open to failure.

A distinguishing characteristic of a scientific theory is that it can be disproved by observation. Although this fate has yet to overtake Darwin's great hypothesis, should another theory replace it, then all scientists will rejoice. However, its antecedents are already consigned to the domains of the history of science or fundamentalist theology. Thus, I "believe" in the theory of evolution since I wish to understand the world and, for the present, have no better theory available to me.

Whilst there may be some who hold dogmatic or authoritarian views on the absolute truth of biological evolution, this is not a strictly scientific conclusion. The evolution of species is a theory — or more precisely a set of theories — and although supported by an empirical basis it remains a mere construct of the human mind, albeit a splendid and beautiful one. As such, it is a "dogma" only in the original Greek meaning, that is, of "seeming", or "informed by opinion" — as are all scientific theories of the physical universe.

Thus finally, I must again agree with Mr Talbot Willcox: the theory of evolution is indeed based on inadequate knowledge. Such is the extent of our ignorance that the entire great edifice of science is so based. The late Sir Karl Popper expressed this clearly:

> The empirical basis of objective science has thus nothing "absolute" about it. Science does not rest upon solid bedrock. The bold structure of its theories rises, as it were, above a swamp. It is like a building erected on piles. The piles are driven down from above into the swamp, but not down to any natural or "given" base; and if we stop driving the piles deeper, it is not because we have reached firm ground. We simply stop when we are satisfied that the piles are firm enough to carry the structure, at least for the time being.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN GEAL,
Clevedon House,
22 Victoria Walk, Bristol.
May 9.

Instant turn-on

From Mr Nigel Bryant

Sir, How to end the drought (letters, May 7, 9)? I bought a barbecue on Saturday, May 3. After several hours, I managed to assemble it.

Whilst I was attempting to light the charcoal it started to spit with rain. The odd drops turned into showers and eventually hailstones and snow.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL BRYANT,
Bridge House, Bromham, Bedford.
May 9.

Hogging the road

From Brigadier Philip Bambury

Sir, Mr Robert Mudie (letter, May 6; see also letters, May 7, 8) asks about being trapped on the road between obstinate "crest-huggers" and impatient maniacs. This phenomenon is related to that experienced by many Army wives in moves between married quarters. They always hand over a spotless cooker and take over one which has never been cleaned.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
PHILIP BAMBURY,
UK Delegation to the OSCE,
Jauresgasse 12,
1030 Vienna,
May 9.

You have been warned

From Mr Charles Scott

Sir, On visiting the Sunderland City Magistrates Court, a splendid Victorian building in the Gothic manner, I was somewhat taken aback by the lack of taste in those administering justice.

Attending the general office I was greeted by a handwritten sign which read "No Smoking"; then only to discover two further signs displayed on the glass partition at the reception desk both of which were again handwritten and prohibited smokers, one adding the rider that this included solicitors. I then was confronted by a fourth sign in this small antechamber, also indicating a prohibition on smokers.

Perhaps it is vain to speculate on what our Victorian forefathers would have made of such vulgarity. I found it offensive.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SCOTT,
Ward Hadaway (solicitors),
Town Hall Chambers,
7 Beach Road,
South Shields, Tyne & Wear.
May 7.

مكتبة الاجيال

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 10: The Princess Royal, Patron, this afternoon attended the Gloucestershire and North Avon Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs' Sixtieth Anniversary Show at the Equine Centre, Hartpury College, near Gloucester, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 11: The Duke of York left Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon for San Francisco, United States of America.

Sir Roger Hervey (Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and took leave of His Royal Highness.

Major Timothy Allan is in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
May 11: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present at the Annual Memorial Service and Parade of the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades which was held in Hyde Park this morning, when Her Majesty took the salute and laid a wreath on the Cavalry Memorial.

The Lady Margaret Colville and Major Charles MacEwan were in attendance.

Royal engagements

The Queen will visit the Household Cavalry at Windsor at 11.00 and stay to luncheon.

The Duke of Edinburgh will open the exhibition *Lord Cochrane in Chile: In the Admiral's Footsteps* at the Bolivar Hall, 52-54 Grafton Street, London W1 at 4.15.

The Princess Royal, as President, Animal Health Trust, will attend a Corporate Members Reception III, at Buckingham Palace at 3.00.

Princess Margaret, as President, the Friends of the Elderly, will visit Perrins House and Davenham, the society's homes in Malvern, Worcestershire, from 12.15; and will open the exhibition *Serenissima: The Arts in Venice from the 13th to the 18th Century* at the European Academy for the Arts, 8 Grosvenor Place, London SW1 at 6.30.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President, Cancer Research Campaign, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, will attend a celebration of Dance, in aid of the Lord Mayor's appeal, at the Royal College of Music at 7.15.

Dinner

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were the hosts at a dinner held yesterday at City Hall for past lord mayors.

Mr Colin Welch

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Colin Welch will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, on Thursday, May 15, at noon.

John Philip (Jack) Le Quesne

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Jack Le Quesne will be held at St Christopher's, Gordonstoun School on Sunday, May 25, 1997, at 11.15am. Further details are available from the School (Tel: 01343 830798).

Memorial parade

Royal Marines Association
Major-General D.A.S. Pennefather, Commandant General Royal Marines, and Lieutenant-General Sir Steuart Pringle laid a wreath at the Royal Marines Memorial in The Mall yesterday. The Rev Basil Watson officiated.

Latest wills

Sir Henry **Nevile**, former Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, of Aubourn Hall, Lincoln, left estate valued at £3,369,074 net.

Sonia Sarah **Morris**, of London NW8, left estate valued at £2,899,854 net.

Birthdays today

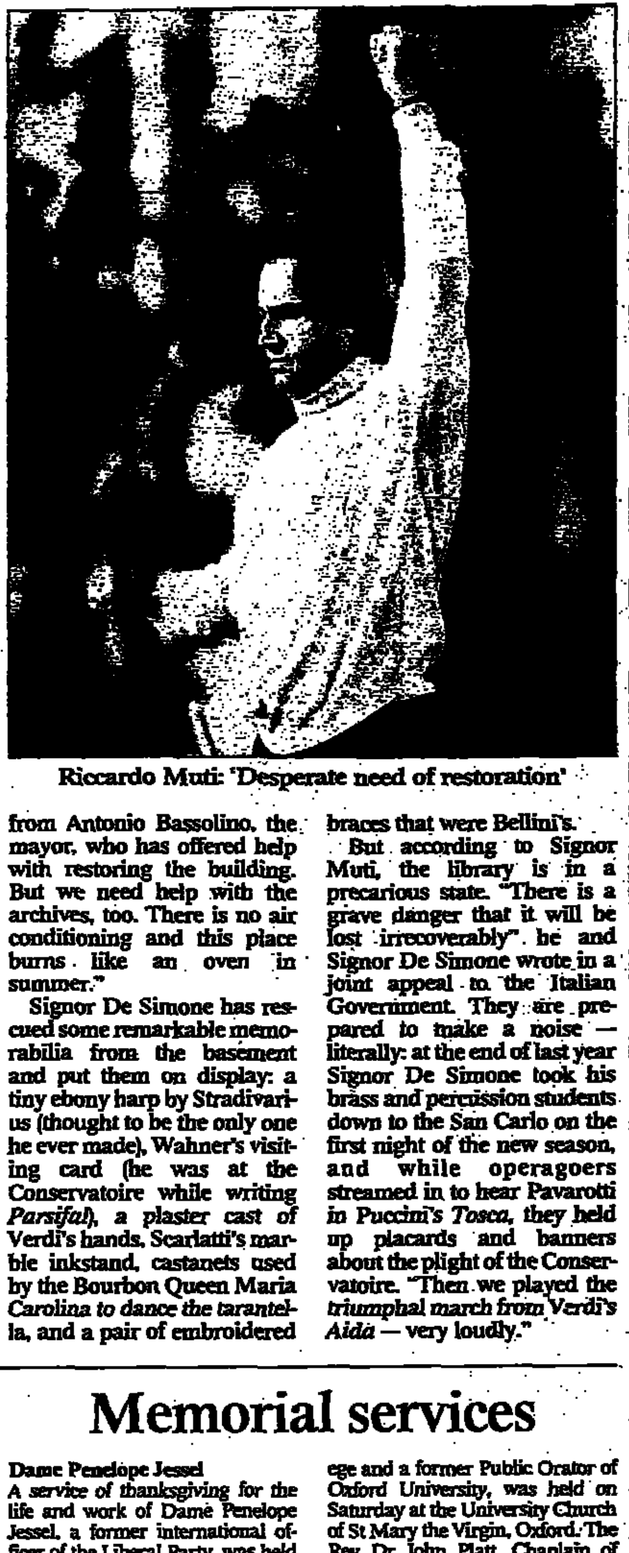
Mr Burt Bacharach, composer, 68; Mr Alan Ball, football manager, 52; Mr N.D. Cadbury, chairman, Cadbury Schweppes, 57; Professor Sir Cyril Chantler, paediatrician, 58; Mr M.A. Coates, former chairman, Price Waterhouse, 73; the Earl of Cork and Orrery, 81; Mr John Floyd, auctioneer, 74; Miss Susan Hampshire, actress, 55; Mr H.V. Hodson, former Editor, *The Sunday Times*, 91; Mr Michael Ignatieff, writer, 50; Miss Helena Kennedy, QC, 47; the Earl of Kimberley, 73; Dr David Kimble, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Malawi, 76; Lord Laing of Dunphail, 74; Mr Eric Lyall, former chairman, Pearl Group, 73; Professor C.P. Mayer, economist, 44; Sir Roger Moate, former MP, 59; the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, former Bishop of Birmingham, 77; Ms Jenni Murray, broadcaster, 47; Mr Christopher Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, 53.

Miss Rosalind Savill, director, The Wallace Collection, 46; Mr Frederick Smithies, trade unionist, 68; Dr Miriam Stoppard, writer and broadcaster, 60; Miss Deborah Warner, theatre director, 38; Mr Charles Winnifrith, clerk of committees, House of Commons, 61; Mr Steve Winwood, rock singer, 49; Sir Paul Wright, diplomat, 82.

Leading musicians in fight to save collection

Priceless manuscripts are turning to dust

From Richard Owen in Naples


Riccardo Muti: 'Desperate need of restoration'

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to save an endangered collection of priceless Italian musical manuscripts, with two leading figures in the music world — Riccardo Muti, the conductor, and Roberto De Simone, head of the Naples Conservatoire and an opera director at the San Carlo Theatre — appealing for European-wide help.

Signor Muti is normally associated with La Scala in Milan. But he was born in Naples, and studied piano and composition at the Conservatoire of San Pietro a Majella. His signed photograph hangs at the Conservatoire next to a portrait of Donizetti, who taught counterpoint there as well as managing the San Carlo for 16 years.

The Conservatoire has an extraordinary collection of musical manuscripts and letters stretching back to the 16th century, by composers such as Puccini, Rossini, Verdi, Pergolesi, Monteverdi, Berlioz and Bellini. But the collection lies in uncatalogued piles in the Conservatory library, and the precious paper crumbles to the touch. Some of the music has not been played since it was written hundreds of years ago and is turning to dust.

Signor Muti, who has collaborated with Signor De Simone on many operas, said the collection was a unique and irreplaceable record. "There are vast numbers of unique autographed manuscripts, and rare early copies of printed music. Renaissance treatises on the art of music, letters from the greatest composers and musicians, opera libretti … incredible riches! But it is all uncatalogued, unedited and in desperate need of restoration."

At the Conservatoire, an elegant if crumbling oasis of 18th-century calm just off the bustle of a rundown Naples side-street, Signor De Simone points out the cracks in the walls and ceilings which date from the Naples earthquake of 1980. "With Muti's help I am trying to save a national treasure," he said. "But absurdly we are classified as a school library, and come under the Ministry of Education, not the Ministry of Culture. So we get no staff or funding from the state. We have one librarian, but we can only afford to pay him to come 12 hours a week."

Appointed a year ago, Signor De Simone, 63, is worshipped by his students, who are relieved that a musician has been put in charge and not a colourless bureaucrat. This spring he has been staging an opera-bouffe by Donizetti at the San Carlo Theatre.

A small, birdlike man with a black cape draped theatrically over his shoulders, he talks non-stop about his musical passions, including the folk music of the Campania, the Naples region. He has astonished local people by inviting schoolchildren to come into the Conservatoire for music lessons in the afternoon. "I get a lot of support from Antonio Bassolino, the mayor, who has offered help with restoring the building. But we need help with the archives, too. There is no air conditioning and this place burns like an oven in summer."

Signor De Simone has rescued some remarkable memorabilia from the basement and put them on display: a tiny ebony harp by Stradivarius (thought to be the only one he ever made), Wahner's visiting card (he was at the Conservatoire while writing *Parsifal*), a plaster cast of Verdi's hands, Scarlatti's marble inkstand, castanets used by the Bourbon Queen Maria Carolina to dance the tarantella, and a pair of embroidered braces that were Bellini's.

But according to Signor Muti, the library is in a precarious state. "There is a grave danger that it will be lost irrecoverably" he and Signor De Simone wrote in a joint appeal to the Italian Government. They are prepared to make a noise — literally: at the end of last year Signor De Simone took his brass and percussion students down to the San Carlo on the first night of the new season, and while operagoers streamed in to hear Pavarotti in Puccini's *Tosca*, they held up placards and banners about the plight of the Conservatoire. "Then we played the triumphal march from Verdi's *Aida* — very loudly."

Nature notes

The curlew

Curlews are nesting on the moors: their four blotchy eggs lie in the form of a cross in a hollow in the heather. The male performs songflights above the nest, its song trilling out faster and faster as it climbs, hovers and glides to earth again.

Lapwings have four eggs similarly arranged in their nests in the fields. The chicks run and hide in the grass as soon as they hatch, but it takes a month before they are large enough to fly. Chaffinches are nesting in the forks of apple trees, and greenfinches building their bulky nests in dense evergreens. The last summer visitors are back, with grasshopper warblers making their high-pitched, reeling song in marshy scrub, and wood warblers singing in the beech woods.

Guelder rose bushes are in bloom: the rosettes have a mass of small creamy flowers in the middle and an outer ring of large white flowers. Early purple orchid is out in woods and on roadsides: it has purple, pink or white flowers on its long stalk, and boldly spotted leaves. The four-petalled yellow flowers of tormentil are common in grassy places, and the first orange-coloured small heath butterflies are flitting over them.

D J M

Memorial services

Dame Penelope Jessel
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Dame Penelope Jessel, a former international officer of the Liberal Party, was held on Saturday at the Church of St Giles, Oxford. Canon Ralph Stevens officiated. Mr Adam Butcher read the lesson; Mr Stephen Jessel, son, read from *Four Quartets* by T.S. Eliot, Mrs Pat St John read *Remember Me* by Christina Rossetti and Mrs Elizabeth Gray read *Forever There* by Juanita De Long. Mr Eric Dehn, Ms Maggie Ford, Ms Christina Baron and Mr Marvin Weil gave addresses.

Among others present were:
Mr and Mrs David Jessel (son and daughter-in-law), Ben and Robert Jessel (grandsons), Mrs Corinna Wiltshire (sister) and many other friends and colleagues.

Professor Godfrey Bond
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Professor Godfrey Bond, Emeritus Fellow of Pembroke College and a former Public Orator of Oxford University, was held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. The Rev Dr John Platt, Chaplain of Pembroke College, officiated. Miss Catherine Bond (daughter) read *Remember Me* by Christina Rossetti and Mr Dan Wilson, a Pembroke undergraduate, read from the works of W.B. Yeats. Sir Robert Carswell gave an address.

Among others present were:
Mrs Bond (widow), Mr and Mrs Kingsmill Bond (son and daughter-in-law), Dr Elwyn Bond (daughter), Dr Ian Beaumont (son-in-law), Mr and Mrs J M Kingsmill Moore (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Miss Alexandra Kingsmill Moore, Mr Hugh Kingsmill Moore, the Master and the Fellows of Pembroke College and many other friends.

Anniversaries and service luncheons and dinners are on the facing page

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.L. Bullough and Lady Georgina Murray
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael Bullough, of Westmains of Huntingtower, Perth, and Georgina, only daughter of the Earl and Countess of Mansfield and Mansfield, Scone Palace, Perth.

Mr T.J. Brennan and Miss G.S. Perceval Maxwell
The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Brennan, of Wilmington, Delaware, USA, and Georgina, elder daughter of Commander Richard Perceval Maxwell, RN, and Mrs Perceval Maxwell, of Holt, Wiltshire.

Major W.A. Grace and Miss P.P.A. Shakerley
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Grace, of Frampton, Dorset, and Philippa, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Shakerley, of Leighton, Powys.

Mr R.E.Q. Gurney and Miss S.A. Mahood
The engagement is announced between Robert Edward Quintin, son of Mr and Mrs David Gurney, of Bawdeswell Hall, Norfolk, and Samantha Alice, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Mahood, of Finchampstead, Berkshire.

Lieutenant R.A. Lauchlan, RN, and Miss F.M. McMichael
The engagement is announced between Robbie, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Lauchlan, of Crieff, Perthshire, and Fiona, daughter of Professor and Mrs Andrew McMichael, of Beckley, Oxfordshire.

Mr E.H.S. Milliken and Miss L.J. Fraser
The engagement is announced between Hugh, youngest son of the late Mr Julian Milliken and of Mrs Julian Milliken, of Abinger Hammer, Surrey, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Fraser, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr A.G.R. Windham and Miss A.P.M. Hoare
The engagement is announced between Ashe, elder son of Mr and Mrs William Windham, of Glasbury-on-Wye, Powys, and Arabella, daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Hoare, of Loubcroy, Sutherland.

Church in Wales

The Rev Paul Noble Thompson, Vicar of Llanharan with Peterston Super Montem, will be licensed to the Parish of Barry All Saints, from July 1, and also be Diocesan Youth Chaplain for three years.

The Rev Elfred Hughes, Vicar of Llantrisant, retired through ill health on May 1.

Marriages

Mr F.A.C. Pery and Miss E.C. Rhind-Tutt
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wargrave, Berkshire, of Mr Fergus Pery, younger son of the Hon Michael and Mrs Pery, of Appin, Argyll, to Miss Emma Rhind-Tutt, daughter of Dr and Mrs John Rhind-Tutt, of Wargrave. The Rev John Ratings officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, and Mr James Gardiner was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in the Caribbean.

Mr N. Corsellis and Miss A. Davies
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 10, in Lincoln's Inn Chapel, London, of Mr Nicholas Corsellis, elder son of Colonel and Mrs David Corsellis, to Miss Anna Davies, elder daughter of Mr W.T. Davies and Dr Judith M. Foy. Canon William Norman, Preacher of the Inn, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs Louise Wijeratne, Mrs Josephine Manfield, Joanne Grimmond, Mary MacLaughlip and Lowri, Daniel and Manon Davies. Mr James Corsellis was best man.

A reception was held at the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R. Chaplin and Miss L.M. Proudlove
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 10, 1997, at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Boldre, Hampshire, of Mr Rowan Chaplin, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Chaplin, of Plummers Plain, Sussex, to Miss Lucy Proudlove, only daughter of Mr and Mrs David Proudlove, of Lymington, Hampshire. The Rev T.J. Spong officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Charlotte Woolland, Douglas Lawson, Rowan Lawson and James Warren. Mr Henry Lawson was best man.

A reception was held at Boldre Hill.

Mr N.O. Pasha and Miss S.M. Norris
Nuptial Mass was celebrated in the Église St Sixte, Pèrols, France, after the marriage, at Pèrols Mairie on Saturday, May 3, 1997, of Mr Nicholas Omer Pasha, son of Mr Mohamed Kamal Pasha and Mrs Elizabeth R. Pasha, of Denver, Norfolk, to Miss Sophie Mairead Norris, daughter of the late Mr David Joseph Norris and of Mrs Roberta M. Norris, of Pèrols, France.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Andrew Norris, was attended by Miss Emily Norris. Mr David Coates was best man.

A reception was held at the Château la Mogère, Montpellier, France, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev David Berryman, Team Rector, Coventry East (Coventry): to be Team Rector, Leicester, The Abbey and Priest-in-charge, Leicester St Paul's (Leicester).

The Rev Kester Carruthers, Rector, West Tanfield and Well w Snape and North Stainley: to be also Assistant Rural Dean of Ripon (Ripon).

Canon Julian Eagle: to be Canon Emeritus of Winchester Cathedral on his retirement on October 19 as Industrial Chaplain w the South Hampshire Industrial Mission.

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'Be strong and resolute; you must not dread them or be afraid, for the Lord your God himself accompanies you; he will not let you down or forsake you.' Deuteronomy 31 : 6

BIRTHS

BULLMAN - On May 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Siobhán (née McNicholas) and Timothy, a son, Charlie, a brother for Johnny.

FENNELLY - On May 8th, to Arminel (née Sebesta) and Anthony, a son, William Kenyon, a brother for Oliver, Hugh and Edward.

LEEMING - On 6th May in Peterborough Hospital, to Susan (née Warde) and Matthew, a daughter, Rosie Beatrice, a sister for Alice Catherine.

McDOUGALL - On May 7th in Alice Springs, to Tina and Hamish, a daughter, Tessa Moreli, a sister for Lisa, Jessica and Tara.

PEEL - On the 8th May 1997 at St James's Hospital Leeds to Marcia nee Robinson and Robert, a son Alexander Lawrence.

SYMONS - On May 2nd in Reading, to Helen (née Sabin) and Peter, a daughter, Karis Annabelle, a sister for Tom.

ANNIVERSARIES

"BF, Ti amero per sempre, J"

DEATHS

ARMITAGE - Edith died peacefully in the loving care of The Hall, Thornton-le-Dale, her home for the past five years, on Thursday 8th May 1997 in her 93rd year. Beloved wife of the late Vic, mother of John, Jean, Audrey and Anthony, granny, great-granny, friend and family doctor gratefully remembered by so many. Private cremation followed by Thanksgiving Service at 2.15 pm on Friday 16th May 1997 at All Saints' Parish Church, Thornton-le-Dale, Pickering. Family flowers, donations to Red Cross at the church or c/o Mrs M.G.M. Moore, Applegarth, Eastfield Road, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7HU.

ARMYTAGE - On May 6th aged 66, in a Turin Hospital, Vivian Frances Helen dearly loved sister of Michael and Joan (Lever)

BARQUET - Phoebe (née Miller) On May 9th in Galeworthy House, Kingston. After a long illness, aged 87. Much loved wife of the late Louis Charkham and the late Raymond Barquet. Devoted mother of Jonathan and Stephen Charkham. Much loved grandmother and great grandmother. No letters please. Funeral private.

CHARLES - See Griffiths.

CLARK - Jack at home on May 9th. Funeral May 16th 12.30pm All Saints Clovelly.

DEATHS

FURNISS - Donald Raymond Munro Furniss D.S.O., D.F.C., suddenly on May 6th 1997, on the eve of his 85th birthday. Most dearly loved by Jill (Denise), Anne and Rory. Private cremation. No flowers please, instead donations to the Peter Tizard Neonatal Unit, Hammersmith Hospital, c/o Kenyons, 74 Rochester Row, London SW1. A celebration of Donald's life will be held at Christ Church, Chelsea, London SW3 on May 28th at 12 noon.

GRIFFITHS - Joy. Suddenly on 8th May. Beloved wife of Wilfred and formerly of Rollo Charles. Dearest Mother of Nick, Rachel and Jenny. Enquires to 01665 710437

HOLY-HASTED - William John. Tragically in an accident on May 9th aged 38 years. Adored husband of Angela, beloved son of Richard and Marigold and brother of Catherine and Jennifer. Funeral at Chetnole. Family only. No flowers or donations. Memorial Service to be announced later.

JONES - Dorothy on May 8th at Worcester, formerly of Kelso and Edinburgh. Beloved wife of Hugo.

KAYE - (Korndorffer) Margaret Lilly. Died peacefully aged 90 years. Much loved. Cremation at Yeovil 3.30 on 14th May. 01252 838101.

KINROSS - Rupert passed away peacefully at home on 16th April aged 88 years. Much loved, he will be much missed. Funeral and interment at St Nicholas Church, Shepperton, at 11am Thursday May 22nd. Enquiries to Funeral Directors: Lodge Bros. (01932) 220081.

MUSSARED - Barbara K. Peacefully on 8th May aged 96 years. Beloved wife of the late Jack Mussared. RFC. Service on Thursday 15th May at 3.15pm at Holy Trinity Church, Bosham. Family flowers only, donations if desired to RNLI, Poole BH15 1BR.

OGDEN - Constance Isabelle (née Daborn). Peacefully at Berkely Lodge Worthing on May 9th. Aged 97. Much loved wife and mother. Requiem Mass at St Andrews Worthing at 11 am on Friday May 16th followed by private cremation.

OWEN - Phyllis Vera on Thursday 8th May aged 100 years, peacefully at Westcliff Nursing Home, Whitby, North Yorkshire. Sister of the late Roderick Laurence McIntyre and James, much loved aunt to Prue, Tim, Robin, Christopher and Wendy. Service and committal at St Hilda's Church, Westcliff, Whitby, on Saturday May 17th at 10 am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Whitby Sea Cadets Unit T.S. James Cook c/o Mr Chris Cowell, Head Teacher, Caedmon School, Whitby, YO21 1QE.

PEYTON JONES - Mary Stafford, on 6th May. Tragically killed in an accident. Beloved daughter of Donald and loving sister of Richard, Monica, Andrew and Jeremy and darling partner of Andy Cox. Cremation at 2 pm on Friday 16th May at Honor Oak Crematorium, Forest Hill, London SE23. Thanksgiving Service to be held at Rame Church, Cawsand, Cornwall at 12 noon on Friday 23rd May. Flowers to Fort Cottage, Cawsand or donations to S.T.E.A. 75, Charlotte Street, London W1P 1LB.

ROWE - Peter Walter aged 74. Beloved husband of Ann, a much loved father and grandfather. Died peacefully in the Lake District on April 28th. A Service of Celebration for his life will be held at St Peter's Church, Prestbury, Cheshire, on 29th May 1997 at 12 noon. Donations if desired to Langdale and Ambleside Mountain Rescue, Lake Road, Ambleside. No mourning please.

SHARP - Suddenly on May 8th aged 57 years. James Christopher Sharp C.B.E. of Newcastle upon Tyne (Managing Director Northern Rock Building Society). Mourned by his wife Mary, son Jeremy and daughters Kate and Rosie. Private Funeral Service for family and friends only at 3pm on Tuesday 13th May at St Mary's Church, Stamfordham followed by private cremation. Details of a Memorial Service will be announced later. Family flowers only please but donations if desired maybe made to Childrens Heart Unit Fund, Room 128 Freeman Hospital, Freeman Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7DN.

SINCLAIR - Albert died 4th May 1997 aged 84. Verger Hampton Court and latterly St Mary Woolnoth. Funeral Service at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 14th May at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, conducted by Canon Michael Moore. Flowers to Co-operative Funeral Services, Kingston-upon-Thames, tel: (0181) 549-9493.

ST CLAIR - Meriel St Clair Green, F.R.C.M., died peacefully in a nursing home on 7th May in her 92nd year. Funeral at St Paul's, Wilton Place, SW1 at 10.30 am on Monday, 19th May, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Musicians Benevolent Fund, c/o Kenyons, 49 Marloes Road, W8 (telephone: 0171 937 0757).

WOUTERS - Marcel JE retired Vice President of Manufacturers Hanover Trust died aged 89 on Tuesday 6th May 1997. Much loved and greatly missed by his sons and their families. Cremation at Kent and Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells on Friday 16th May at 12 noon.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

McAWEENY - Francis Alexander, on noon Wednesday 14th May 1997 at Bristol Roman Catholic Cathedral. No flowers but donations to Thomas & Powell Ward, Bristol General Hospital.

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LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER MYLES OSBORN

Lieutenant-Commander Myles Osborn, DSO, OBE, DSC, wartime naval pilot died on May 2 aged 82. He was born in Lytham St Annes on December 15, 1914.

Osborn, centre front row, and pilots and observers of his squadron in front of a Seafire shortly after the war

It was while flying a Swordfish with 829 Squadron from the aircraft carrier *Formidable* that Myles Osborn took part in the Battle of Cape Matapan on March 28, 1941, for which he was awarded the DSC. Admiral Cunningham, naval C-in-C in the Mediterranean, had learnt from Ultra decrypts that an Italian force, led by the fast battleship *Vittorio Veneto* had sailed out to attack British convoys.

Cunningham intended that an advance squadron of four Allied cruisers should try to lure this force towards his three battleships, which were naturally immensely superior in gunpower. At 1500 hours, just as the Italian cruisers and battleship were assailing Cunningham's cruisers, 829's five attack aircraft — three Albacores and Osborn's two Swordfish — spotted the Italian battleship and attacked with torpedoes.

The intervention was decisive. Osborn led his sub-flight through heavy ack-ack fire towards the *Veneto*, his slow biplane "Stringbags" (Swordfish) drawing enemy fire. Although his torpedo missed, one faster Albacore hit the target close to her bows and the Italian battleship limped back to port, taking with her a cruiser escort which might have been more usefully employed in the subsequent engagement.

At dusk 829's aircraft returned and found and crippled the heavy cruiser *Pola*. She was later sunk by British destroyers. In a night action, the *Pola*'s two sister cruisers, which had been sent to her aid, and two Italian destroyers were sunk. After the victory of Cape Matapan the Italian fleet ceased to pose a threat in the Mediterranean.

Osborn's father Ashby had been ranching in Canada when the First World War broke out, but he crossed the Atlantic and joined the Wiltshire Regiment, one of Kitchener's first 100,000 volunteers. He was killed in May 1917 in Mesopotamia.

Brought up by his mother Marjorie, who never remarried, George Myles Thomas Osborn passed through the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, between 1927 and 1931. His mother lost her savings in the Great Crash but the college chaplain was her brother and he paid for her son to complete his training. After serving in the Fleet as a midshipman, Osborn was recommended for a course in flying at Greenwich and subsequently served in various aircraft carriers.

At the outset of war "Woozle" Osborn (the nickname was a reference to a favourite passage in *Winnie the Pooh*) was with 829 Squadron RN in the Mediterranean, first in *Ark Royal*, then *Illustrious*. By the time of Matapan, he was one of the Navy's most experienced pilots and a natural leader. Attacking convoys and shipping supplying Axis forces in North Africa, Osborn believed in dropping his torpedo as close as 250 yards from the enemy and always from the regulation 60 feet. This called for rare flying skills and considerable *sangfroid*. Flying at around 90 mph, the Swordfish offered a slow, bulky and combustible target for enemy anti-aircraft gunfire.

During the Battle of Crete, *Formidable* was badly damaged by Stukas and she was sent to the USA for repairs. No 829 Squadron was disbanded, Osborn and four other experienced pilots joining 830 Squadron in Malta, at the beginning of June 1941. His first foray from Malta was a night attack against a large ship, steaming south at nine knots with all its lights burning brilliantly. Osborn spotted the red cross on her hull which denoted a hospital ship. Nevertheless he was ordered to attack — intelligence had reported that Axis hospital ships might be carrying troops and arms. The independently-minded Osborn did not consider the target fair game and deliberately aimed his torpedo to miss astern. The squadron war diary blamed such poor marksmanship on "indecision".

Over the next few months Osborn led numerous attacks on Axis ships, destroying at least 50,000 tons of enemy shipping carrying cargoes for Rommel's troops in North Africa. This earned him a DSO.

One night he found and sank an enemy merchant ship of 5,000 tons and a destroyer alongside her with a single torpedo, despite appalling visibility and a dense destroyer smoke screen. His repeated close range attacks on tankers and warships within Tripoli and Syracuse harbours called for the utmost skill and daring, through intense AA fire and a dense balloon barrage..

Osborn's luck ran out on the night of November 11, 1941, thanks to the stubbornness of a new squadron CO who insisted that the course he had set would lead his four Swordfish back to Malta. Instead it resulted in their running out of fuel and ditching off the coast of Sicily. One crewmember was killed. Osborn intended to overpower the Italian coastal patrol that fished them out, but found he had lost the use of his legs through exhaustion. Osborn was incarcerated first in Italy, then — after Mussolini's overthrow — in Germany. He made numerous escape attempts, being desperate to get back to the fight. He found that a persistent obstacle was the senior British officer; he was "like a senior prefect sucking up to the Head" — in this case the German Commandant — he later recalled.

Osborn retired from the navy as a lieutenant-commander in 1947, and joined the Colonial Service, serving first in Sierra Leone, then in Singapore and lastly for ten years in Malaya, where he was a District Officer. During the Emergency, he was involved in counter-insurgency, particularly with ensuring the loyalty of rural populations.

After independence he left the Colonial Service and in 1963 was employed under the Colombo Plan (the Commonwealth initiative of 1950 to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific) as "Hill Tribes adviser" to the Laotian Government, increasingly threatened by the Communist Pathet Lao. In fact he reported to MI6. He was an expert on communist infiltration; his Malayan experience had taught him that the "hearts and minds" and the allegiance of the people were crucial.

For his work with MI6 Osborn was appointed OBE. He retired to Spain in 1971. Myles Osborn was a short, forceful man with an impatient intelligence who dominated a room through charm and wit. His undiplomatically boozy parties in Vientiane were legendary. Only a succession of strokes in his last years reduced his physical and mental energy.

He married Pamela Dolman, née Sturges, the widow of an RAF officer, in 1947. He is survived by her and by their daughter.

GENEVRA CAWS

Genevra Caws, QC, barrister, died of a thrombosis on April 14 aged 48. She was born on February 21, 1949.

GENEVRA CAWS was considered by many to be the outstanding woman barrister of her generation. And, if her name was less well known to the public at large than that of some of her contemporaries, it was because of her range of qualities — the most outstanding of which was her modesty.

The daughter of Richard Caws, a chartered surveyor who was for 26 years a Crown Estate Commissioner, and his wife Fiona, she was christened Genevra Fiona Penelope Victoria, but was always known as Jenny.

She was educated at Notting Hill and Ealing High School, where she was an outstanding pupil, and of which she subseqently became a local governor. Awarded an exhibition in Classics to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, she went up in 1966 at the age of 17 to read law.

Her Oxford career was one of unblemished academic success. As the first woman to be elected to such a position in the Oxford University Law Society, she greatly enjoyed the title of Mistress of Moots. She won a distinction in Law Moderations, the Gibbs Law Scholarship, and a first in the Honour School of Jurisprudence in 1969.

A Duke of Edinburgh scholar of the Inner Temple, she did her first pupillage with Gordon (now Lord) Slynn, the then Treasury devil, at No 1 Hare Court, and then with David (now Mr Justice) Keene at Gray's Inn Chambers, now 4-5 Gray's Inn Square, where she spent the rest of her professional life.

While awaiting the interview for a scholarship from Inner Temple, she met her husband James Curtis, QC, who invited her out to tea. They married in 1985.

Jenny Caws developed a wide-ranging practice in commercial, employment, competition and administrative law, and featured in many reported cases. She was also well-known in the field of professional negligence and was recently described in a law journal as the "first choice on any case of substance".

She took silk in 1991. Shortly after she had put in her application, she was invited by the Attorney-General to become Junior Counsel to the Inland Revenue — the second most senior appointment open to the Junior Bar on the common law side. Had the invitation come a few weeks earlier, she might have accepted it; but after anxious consideration, she decided to pursue her chosen course and duly became a Queen's Counsel in the next Easter list.

The success she achieved in the front row can be seen by enumerating the clients who sought in recent years her services for important cases: the Law Society, the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, the Further Education Funding Council, government departments and various local authorities.

Between 1993 and 1995 she acted for the Director-General of Fair Trading in the Restrictive Practices Court in contempt proceedings brought against 13 ready-mixed concrete suppliers. This was one of the largest litigation actions in the history of the Office of Fair Trading and resulted in record fines. In 1996 she acted for the Director-General of Fair Trading in bringing to an end the Net Books Agreement. She was elected a bencher of her Inn, the Inner Temple, in 1996.

She was as at home in Coln Rogers, Gloucestershire, where she and her family lived and farmed at weekends, as she was in her professional life in Chambers. She loved the beauty and simplicity of life in the country and particularly gardening and wild flowers. She and her husband became expert in sheep breeding, which she studied and on which she grew very knowledgeable. She was a voracious reader. She was also a proficient fisherman and skier and it was in Val d'Isère, Switzerland, while on a skiing holiday, that she suddenly died.

Jenny Caws was a formidable lawyer. She had many strengths as an advocate, a gentle but firm voice and calm judgment. But what was best about her as a barrister, was what was best about her as a human being: patience, reasonableness, a courteous capacity to listen and a real warmth and understanding.

She is survived by her husband, a nine-year-old daughter, her parents, and a brother and a sister.

SRI MADHAVA ASHISH

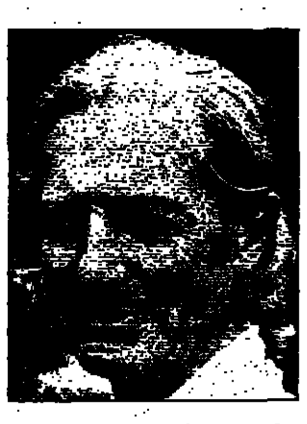
Sri Madhava Ashish, British-born Hindu monk and Himalayan hill farmer, died at Mirtola, near Almora, Uttar Pradesh, on April 13 aged 77. He was born in Edinburgh on February 23, 1920.

BORN Alexander Phipps into a British Army family and educated in England, Madhava Ashish devoted his life to Indian esoteric thought, and to farming and conservation in the Himalayas.

His methods eventually began to be copied by other hill dwellers and, in some areas at least, erosion of the terrain began to be halted. He and his team were honoured by the President of India in 1992 with the Padma Shri Award.

Alexander Phipps was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Phipps, Royal Artillery. He was educated at Sherborne, after which he trained as an engineer at the Chelsea Aeronautical Engineering College. He initially worked on testing aircraft in England before transferring to aircraft production at Dum Dum in India.

After the war he toured India and was captivated by the life at the ashram at Uttara Brindaban, in the corner of India between the borders of Tibet and Nepal.



The ashram, close to the 24,000ft Mt Nanda Devi peak, was run by Sri Krishna Prem, and after his death in 1965, by Ashish, the name Alexander had taken when he became a monk.

As a hill farmer he had become a pioneer of conservation in the Himalayas. The tragedy of the Himalayas is over-cropping by domestic animals which wander unchecked, making it impossible for younger plants to replace older trees when they are felled, leading to erosion on a catastrophic scale. Because of the relationship between the ashram and the village Ashish was able to enclose the village land on the mountain so that hungry domestic animals could not browse, destructively, at will.

He then built a zoo in reverse, with the wild animals on the outside of the cages (sometimes asleep on top of them) and the domestic animals restrained inside, with their food being harvested and brought to them to feed. The cages, tiger and leopard proof, were protected by Bhutia dogs which he acquired from the nomadic herdsman.

Through this enclosure he created a green mountain which, when seen from the air, stands out like an oasis in the desert. This experiment in hill farming is successfully being copied by others. The subject of agriculture, for which he wrote much of the curriculum, is now taught in the mountain schools.

Nominally a Hindu, he saw all religions as having a common goal. He spent much time meditating and helping others to search for their path to God. He became interested in Indian esoteric thought after he first visited the ashram of Ramana Maharsi, and continued his studies with Sri Krishna Prem with whom he was co-author of *Man the Measure of all Things*.

He was the author of *Man, Son of Man, a Cosmology*, and published papers on *The Secret Doctrine as a Contribution to World Thought* and *The Guru as Exemplar. and Guide to the Term of Human Evolution*.

DR DAVID LEWES

Dr David Lewes, consultant cardiologist, died on April 22 aged 81. He was born on August 26, 1915.

AN AFFABLE, pipe-smoking doctor with an eclectic array of interests, David Lewes brought a warmth, humanity and enthusiasm to everything he did. As a cardiologist at Bedford Hospital he excelled, always pushing at the frontiers of knowledge. It was he who — using nutmeg graters as a prototype — invented multi-point electrodes for electrocardiographs. These were used by NASA on its space missions.

A keen amateur botanist, he published, among other things, a study of mushroom poisoning and a paper on exploding marrows. A humanist, he argued the innocence of James Hanratty, convicted of the A6 murders.

David Steel Lewes was born in Sydney, Australia, and educated at King's School, Paramatta, in New South Wales. It was as an amateur chemist that he really excelled as a schoolboy and his father — though strictly Victorian in his values (he once caned his son for calling him Daddy) — encouraged him, allowing him access to any chemicals he wanted. Lewes would use home-made explosives to entertain his friends.

This inspired his elder brother, Jock, to follow suit and eventually led to him inventing the Lewes Bomb which gave the Special Air Service teeth in sabotaging enemy installations.

In 1934 Lewes entered Christ Church, Oxford, graduating with first-class honours in medicine. His final year was spent researching into Vitamin C and its effect, under Sir Solly Zuckerman.

He went on to work at the London Hospital, where he gained a wide general medical experience, though his particular interest was cardiology. He qualified in 1941, and six months later found himself working at Southend General Hospital. There he was responsible for running the entire medical side of the hospital's work.

He became a member of the Royal College of Physicians and, in 1944, joined the RAF. Posted to the Azores he found himself faced with a sudden mass outbreak of typhoid and salmonella. It was he who located the source of the outbreak — a cook in a restaurant kitchen — and helped to treat and control it.

After the war, Lewes was made Patterson Research Scholar in the cardiac department of the London Hospital. In 1948 he was appointed tutor in medicine and senior registrar at the Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith. But, an enthusiastic amateur botanist, he also worked at this time on a study for Kew Gardens of a type of exploding marrow. It was this article which was to catch the attention of the selection committee for Bedford General Hospital. Impressed by his original and inquiring mind, they appointed him consultant physician in 1952.

Humanitarian in outlook, Lewes was deeply concerned about injustice. After the apprehension of James Hanratty, Lewes was affronted when national newspapers seemed to condemn Hanratty before his trial. Having a few weeks leave at that time, Lewes sat in court throughout the entire proceedings. He had a photographic memory and perceived what he thought were anomalies in the case brought against Hanratty. His thoughts on the matter were extensively used by Paul Foot.

Lewes also wrote many articles on cardiology and other subjects in *The Lancet* and *The British Medical Journal*, publishing at least one a year until his retirement in 1981.

He is survived by his wife Daphne, and by three daughters and a son.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS:
John Bell, surgeon, Edinburgh, 1763; Edward Lear, artist and poet, London, 1812; Florence Nightingale, hospital reformer, Florence, 1820; Dante Gabriel Rossetti, poet and painter, founder member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, London, 1828; Jules Massenet, composer, Montaud, France, 1842; Gabriel Fauré, composer, Permiers, Ariège, France, 1845; Lincoln Ellsworth, polar explorer, Chicago, 1880; Sir Lennox Berkeley, composer, Oxford, 1903; Tony Hancock, comedy actor, Birmingham, 1924.

DEATHS:
Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford, statesman, executed, London, 1641; August Wilhelm Schlegel, poet, Bonn, 1845; Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Gothic revival, London, 1860; Bedrich Smetana, composer, Prague, 1884; Amy Lowell, poet, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1925; Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, man of letters, Fowey, Cornwall, 1944; Erich von Stroheim, actor and film director, Maurepas, France, 1957; John Masefield, Poet Laureate 1930-67, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire, 1967; John Smith, leader of the Labour Party 1992-94, London, 1994.

The General Strike ended, 1926.

Alcoholics Anonymous was founded by William Wilson in Akron, Ohio, 1935.

The coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 1937.

The minimum voting age in Britain was lowered from 21 to 18, 1969.

Service dinners

The Queen's Royal Lancers
Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Lancers, presided at the annual reunion dinner of The Queen's Royal Lancers Regimental Association held on Saturday at the Waldorf Hotel.

The Queen's Royal Hussars
Major-General Richard Barron, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Hussars, presided at the annual dinner of the Regimental Association held on Saturday at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch.

No 16 RFC and RAF Association
Air Marshal Sir David Cousins, President of No 16 RFC and RAF Association, accompanied by Lady Cousins, received guests at the annual dinner held on Saturday at the RAF Club.

British Army Civil Affairs Group
Brigadier A.S. Craig, Commander Engineers Land, was the principal guest at the inaugural dinner of the British Army Civil Affairs Group held on Saturday at the Royal Engineers Officers Mess, Minley Manor.

Lieutenant-Colonel P.W. Hayward Broomfield, Commanding Officer, was in the chair.

Service luncheon

1st Gurkha Rifles
Major-General D.G.T Horsford presided at a luncheon held on Saturday at the Ghurka Museum, Winchester, to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1st Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association.

ON THIS DAY

May 12, 1920

The centenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale provided an opportunity for a reappraisal of her work, and a salute to one who "being dead yet speaketh"

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

BORN MAY 12, 1820

It is 100 years ago to-day since Florence Nightingale was born. When Queen Victoria, her senior by a year, came to the Throne, she was a girl of 17. Nineteen years later she came home from the Crimea, having made her name, for all the world as long as the world shall last, an abiding symbol of the highest and purest womanly devotion. From then to the day of her death, only four years before the storm of the Great War burst upon Europe, she was almost always confined to her house. The strain of her work for the sick and wounded and dying soldiers had sapped her bodily strength. But the flame of her soul was never quenched. The lamp that she had lit at Scutari burnt steadily to the end. Those 54 years of invalid life in Mayfair were even more fruitful in service to the Army and humanity in general than the long and strenuous and agonizing months of her toil at the seat of war. When, a year or two before her death, she received the Order of Merit, the fact that she was still alive came as something of a surprise to most of her fellow-countrymen. For them she was the Lady of the Lamp They knew of what she had done for the Army of the Crimea, with Sidney Herbert at the War Office and Dr. W.H. Russell in the field to help her. Comparatively few of the rank and file were aware of the existence of that marvellous driving force which by years of incessant labour revolutionized the whole system of medical and surgical and sanitary treatment in the Army, and made nursing the honoured and highly efficient profession that it now is. "Such a *head!*" wrote Queen Victoria. "I wish we had her at the War Office." As it was, she was outside its walls, but she stormed and conquered it from her bed. She was, and by many still is, looked upon as a gentle, quiet, womanly, self-sacrificing saint. In a sense all of that was true. But the saint was very human. Not her gentleness but her strength won her the victory. It was by her businesslike brain, by her passionate dislike and contempt for feebleness and inefficiency and wrong, no less than by her vision and her great heart, that she brought order out of chaos. She was a fighter and remained a fighter when most women and most men stricken as she was would have turned their faces to the wall. St. Paul rather than St. John was her prototype, and she lives forever as one of the strongest as well as one of the foremost women of the Victorian era and of all time.

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Howard campaign suffers setback

■ Michael Howard's Tory leadership bid suffered a serious setback when it emerged that two former ministerial colleagues plan to go public with damaging allegations about his performance as Home Secretary.

Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister of State from July 1995, will break her silence over Mr Howard's controversial dismissal of Derek Lewis as director general of the Prisons Service in October 1995 .... **Page 1**

Brown to phase out mortgage tax relief

■ Gordon Brown will use his first Budget to launch a purge on the "get-rich-quick" culture and to use new taxes to fund a radical welfare programme. One of the biggest changes will be *the phasing out of mortgage interest tax relief that gives some* ten million homeowners help of £27 a month .... **Page 1**

Brown suits himself

Gordon Brown is to slay another sacred cow next month by abandoning formal dress for a lounge suit when he delivers the Chancellor's Mansion House speech .... **Page 1**

Hague's party piece

William Hague is to take his Tory leadership camapign to the party's local activists by embarking next week on a tour of constituency associations .... **Page 2**

Rover's long life

Science *has* discovered *that* a year-old dog is a fully grown and sexually mature 18-year-old, and *not seven years as Britain's* 6.5 million dog owners persist in thinking .... **Page 3**

Blunkett's agenda

The *Government will force* local authorities to shut failing schools that are not improving, even before the law *is in place*. David Blunkett said: "I want to create momentum" .... **Page 8**

Teenage hang-ups

Most children, aged 11 to 16, worry about their appearance, with concerns topped by overweight, *spots and ugly teeth. Girls* and poorer children are more anxious about their looks .... **Page 5**

Gulf War inquiry

Defence ministers are to order a new investigation into the extent of the official "cover up" over the "Gulf War *syndrome*" .... **Page 6**

Flight to map route

At the invitation of the Russian Air Force three RAF pilots are to fly across the *former* Soviet Union to map a commercial air route .... **Page 9**

Second take

Joel Marsden, a young film-maker, is surprised that Steven Spielberg's latest movie bears un*canny similarities to his own.* Both stories are about slave-ship uprisings and Spielberg is using the same set and the same principal actor .... **Page 7**

Swiss 'link to SS'

A Swiss newspaper said Credit *Suisse, now Switzerland's second* largest bank, dealt directly with the Nazi SS corps which operated a secret account in the bank to launder money .... **Page 11**

Pope's homily

The Pope has called for Leba*non's "total independence"* but stopped short of saying that Syrian and Israeli forces should withdraw .... **Page 12**

Help for Iran

An international relief operation is preparing to help Iran cope after an earthquake left at least 2,400 dead .... **Page 10**

Attack on elite

Voters are blaming France's elite *institution that produces so many* of its top politicians, corporate leaders and civil servants for the country's ills .... **Page 14**

Kasparov battles for Man's honour

■ Garry Kasparov, "the last best hope of mankind", was worried as he prepared for the final duel in the six-game chess *match with the IBM computer Deep Blue. Man and machine* have three draws and one win each. The Russian grandmaster said of his silicon rival: "I can out-calculate any player in the world, but I cannot out-calculate the machine" .... **Page 13**

ANTHONY UPTON

The Queen Mother with old comrades from the combined cavalry regiments at a service in their honour in Hyde Park yesterday

BUSINESS

Jobs data: *The Government* is to launch a review of unemployment figures, which is likely to result in radical changes to the way that they are calculated .... **Page 48**

Pensions rebuke: Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has summoned leaders of life and pensions companies to de*mand a prompt resolution of the* £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal .... **Page 48**

Sterling setback: The pound is expected to face a bumpy ride againafter the Bank of England *hinted that it was satisfied with last* week's rate rise .... **Page 48**

Role for Rocco: Sir Rocco Forte is likely to be charged with restoring the Tory party's finances after its expensive election defeat .. **Page 48**

Melvyn Bragg writes: *"Whatever* this Government does or does not do, broadcasting, and culture in its widest sense including tourism, will increase in importance and wealth" .... **Page 18**

Thumbs up: *At the Old Vic,* the Peter Hall company stages a new production of Chekhov's *The Seagull that strikes a perfect bal*ance between laughter and pain .... **Page 18**

Star guest: American soprano Susan Patterson makes her London debut as Violetta in the ENO production of *La Traviata* .... **Page 18**

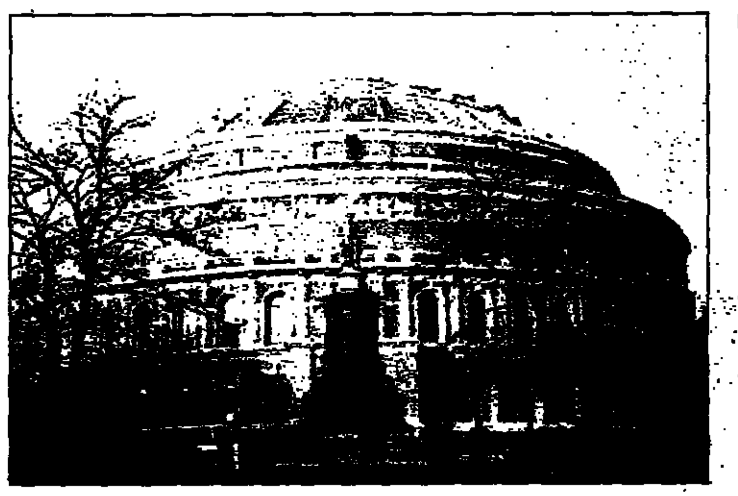
Cannes reviews: Geoff Brown reviews the opening films in the 50th edition of the Cannes Film Festival, including Luc Besson's sci-fi adventure *The Fifth Element* .... **Page 19**

Family ties: *Jason Connery hopes* his latest film role, as Macbeth, will finally free him from comparisons with 007 .... **Page 16**

Secret paths: For modern women, midlife is the last remaining mystery *but* a Cambridge academic argues that it holds the secret of new growth, reassessment and renewed confidence .... **Page 17**

Floating timebomb: Why *did* Hindenburg go up in flames? Scientists take another look at the Zeppelin disaster .... **Page 15**

Science briefing: Using satellite images, scientists have pinpointed eight quarries worked by the first settlers of North America up to 10,000 years ago .... **Page 15**



IN THE TIMES

■ COMPETITION
Heading for the
Albert Hall: how 500
kids can win tickets
to the Junior Prom

■ LAW
A QC and a solicitor
put the new
Lord Chancellor
on the spot

Football: After a dramatic final day of the season, Middlesbrough and Sunderland were relegated from the FA Carling Premiership and Coventry City staged their familiar escape .... **Pages 25, 28, 29**

Motor racing: Michael Schumacher proved he is the most gifted driver in Formula One by winning the Monaco Grand Prix in treacherous conditions .... **Page 27**

Rugby union: Bristol and London *Irish preserved their status* in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship by winning their matches against Bedford and Coventry respectively .... **Page 38**

Equestrianism: David O'Connor, of the *United States, riding Custom* Made, won the £25,000 first prize at the Badminton Horse Trials after *Ian Stark, of Britain,* lost *his* grip on the title after a disastrous showjumping round .... **Page 27**

Cricket: *The* early-season performances of Hampshire and Nottinghamshire have underlined the *obvious lack of quality in the* poorest teams in the county championship .... **Page 34**

12, 19, 22, 23, 25, 44. Bonus 2. Two win £3,632,327 each. Thirty-six win £62,091 each for five numbers plus the bonus ball. 978 win £1,428 each for five balls and 68,367 get £44 each for four numbers. 1,287,915 win £10 for three numbers.

Preview: In the first of a six-part series, *Computers Don't Bite: The Beginner's Guide* (BBC2, 7.30pm) tests a home decorating software

Review: *Dancing for Dollars* won Matthew Bond's vote for not showing ballet .... **Page 47**

The bridge builder

Acclaimed by a crowd of 300,000 people, the pontiff has preached reconciliation and renewal, freedom and dignity. He has been a true bridge-builder .... **Page 20**

No peace, no privilege

Tony Blair should use his own *good sense and affirm* that Sinn Fein should be heard in Parliament only when the guns have been silenced .... **Page 20**

It's a dog's life

Dog has always been a parable as well as a companion. So there is no *reason* why an old dog should not now teach man new tricks about age .... **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

Robin Cook is Labour's eleventh Foreign Secretary — enough for a cricket team, he remarks, though he would not be happy with all his team-mates. They have been a motley bunch .... **Page 20**

GARRET FITZGERALD

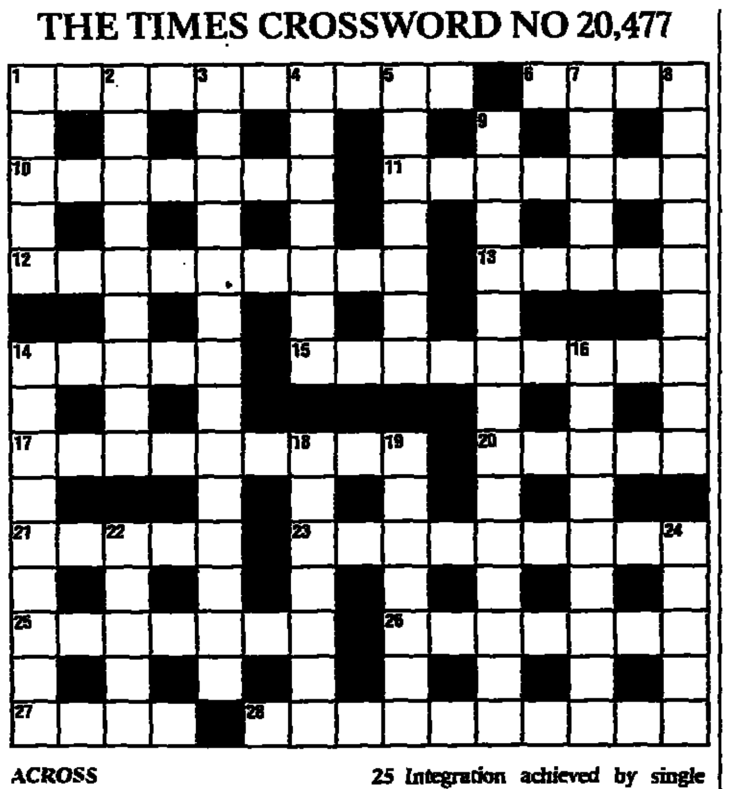
With barely one Conservative voter in every ten *switching to Labour, it* is hard to see how the result of this election can reasonably be described *as a landslide. What made it seem* like a landslide, of course, was the first-past-the-post voting *system* .... **Page 20**

Lieutenant-Commander Myles Osborn, wartime Fleet Air Arm *pilot;* **Genevra Caws,** *barrister;* **Sri Madhava Ashish,** British-born Hindu monk and Himalayan hill farmer .... **Page 23**

Audience and creativity of BBC; evolution; pensions; post-election 97; Cherie Blair picture .... **Page 21**

Robin Cook's first act was to rush off to France and Germany and assure them that together with *Britain they formed Europe's* Big Three. This was bound to hit a nerve in Rome — *La Repubblica*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,477



ACROSS

1 College has exotic trees planted by crank (10).
6 Article finally exposes character on the staff (4).
10 American doctors operating using Buggins' method, we hear (7).
11 Zola's initial reason for moving (7).
12 Break down as offer is beginning to excite (9).
13 Teams second before 13th July, for instance (5).
14 A sort of nose mostly okay for smell (5).
15 Morning gathering for children to sing (4,2,3).
17 Flower-girl replacing centre of third cape (3,6).
20 He may take some interest if you pop in his shop (5).
21 Create right fuss after Company cancel steamer for island (5).
23 State of string in an instrument, maybe (9).
25 Integration achieved by single head (7).
26 His pulling out may hasten loss of set (7).
27 Notice pipe's beginning to leak (4).
28 After dropping one, coach gets criticised and moved (10).

DOWN

1 Refuse, you say, to specify this body-part (5).
2 Remains of bread and butter? (3,6).
3 The sailors' duet when adrift in calm waters (5,9).
4 Upsetting reports about son in part of school year (7).
5 Under a day before spider achieves the greatest height (7).
7 He's landed face-up right in it (5).
8 It offers a choice for those entering pools (9).
9 Walkabout — how like our monarch! (14).
14 About to get gold medal in sporting event (9).
16 High speed isn't breaking hand that turns (9).
18 Zola, for example, presenting a small volume to employer (7).
19 Row past sandy ridge in faraway port (7).
22 This magistrate always sent up without quarter (5).
24 Well-known saw (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,476 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: *Highest day temp:* Guernsey 17C (63F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Anglesey, 0.55in; highest sunshine: Shanklin, Isle of Wight 13hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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☐ **General:** England and Wales will have another day of sunny *intervals and showers. Some of the* showers will be heavy, possibly *with hail and thunder. There will be* a blustery southwesterly wind.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers or longer periods of rain. There will be some heavier outbreaks and a good deal of hill fog. Winds will be moderate, *becoming mainly southerly.*

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Central N England:** dry at first, sunny spells *and showers, some heavy and* possibly thundery later. Wind fresh, southwesterly. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **W Midlands, Channel Isles, S W England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England:** sunny spells and showers, some heavy, possibly *thundery later.* Wind fresh, southwesterly. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** mostly cloudy *with showers or longer spells of* sometimes heavy rain. Wind moderate to fresh, southwesterly. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland:** mostly cloudy with showers or longer spells of heavy rain. Wind moderate southwesterly, later southerly. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** *mostly cloudy with outbreaks* of light rain. Wind southerly, moderate. Max 10C-12C (50F-54F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday:** becoming mainly *dry in the south, with showers* further north, winds dying down.

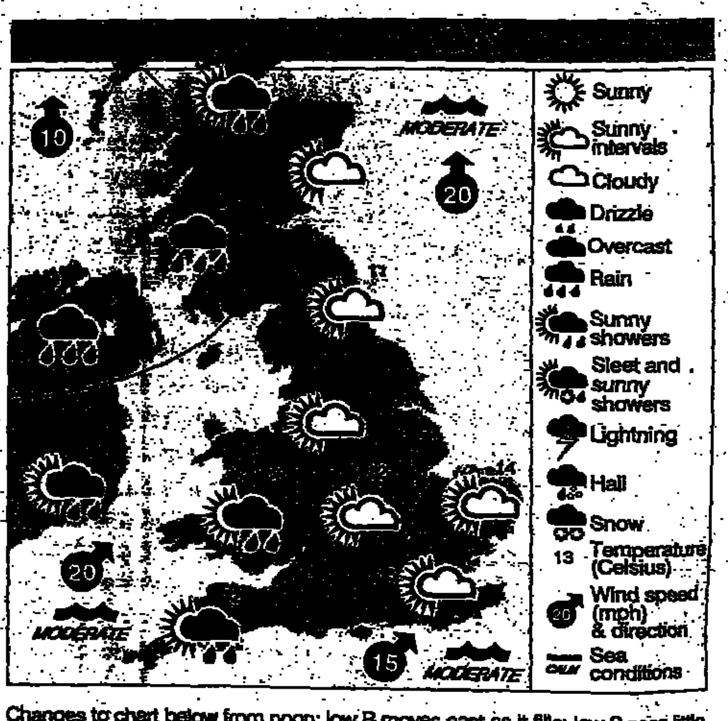
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	6.4	0.46	11	52	sh	Leuchars	3.8	0.54	13	55	sh
Anglesey	7.0	0.54	13	55	sh	Littlehmptn	10.7	-	15	59	s
Aspatria	*2.4*	*0.31*	*11*	*52*	*sh*	*London*	*11.9*	*0.01*	*15*	*59*	*sh*
Aviemore	4.8	0.30	12	54	h	Lowestoft	10.9	-	15	59	s
Belfast	2.8	-	11	52	sh	Manchester	7.3	0.09	13	55	sh
Birmingham	9.6	0.02	14	57	sh	Margate	11.1	-	16	61	s
Bognor R	11.9	-	15	59	s	Minehead	7.9	0.12	14	57	sh
Bournem'th	9.3	0.06	14	57	s	Morecambe	1.8	0.32	11	52	sh
Bristol	7.9	0.15	14	57	t	Newcastle	9.2	0.23	12	54	sh
Buxton	7.4	0.29	11	52	s	Newquay	10.8	0.08	13	55	s
Cardiff	*7.8*	*0.13*	*13*	*55*	*sh*	Norwich	10.7	0.01	16	61	s
Clacton	12.0	0.04	13	55	s	Oxford	7.6	0.21	13	55	sh
Cleethorpes	9.0	0.11	15	59	sh	Penzance	X	0.13	15	59	sh
Colwyn Bay	7.7	0.19	13	55	b	Poole	10.4	0.07	16	61	s
Cromer	12.7	0.01	16	61	s	Ross-o-wye	9.1	0.02	13	55	sh
Dunbar	*2.3*	*0.39*	*12*	*54*	*sh*	Ryde	12.8	-	15	59	s
Eastbourne	10.2	0.01	15	59	s	Salcombe	10.2	0.15	14	57	b
Edinburgh	2.2	0.35	11	52	sh	Sandown	12.7	-	15	59	s
Exmouth	7.6	0.17	14	57	sh	Saunton Snd	6.9	0.03	14	57	s
Falmouth	4.3	0.02	14	57	c	Scarboro'	10.4	0.27	13	55	sh
Fishguard	*8.6*	*0.20*	*12*	*54*	*sh*	*Shanklin*	*13.0*	-	*14*	*57*	*s*
Folkestone	9.0	0.01	15	59	s	Shrewsbury	9.0	0.13	14	57	sh
Glasgow	2.2	0.53	11	52	sh	Skegness	7.0	0.37	14	57	sh
Guernsey	9.1	0.03	17	63	sh	Southend	11.0	-	15	59	b
Hastings	9.6	0.04	15	59	sh	Southport	4.2	0.16	12	54	sh
Hayling I.	*11.6*	*0.01*	*14*	*57*	*s*	Southsea	9.7	-	14	57	s
Herne Bay	11.1	-	16	61	s	Stornoway	9.9	-	11	52	s
Hove	9.9	-	14	57	s	Swanage	11.1	0.08	14	57	sh
Hunstanton	X	*0.10*	*16*	*61*	*b*	Teignmouth	10.2	0.16	14	57	sh
Isle of Man	3.9	0.05	11	52	sh	Tenby	8.6	0.20	12	54	s
Jersey	7.7	0.03	16	61	sh	Torquay	8.9	0.35	15	59	s
Kinloss	2.2	0.17	10	50	f	Ventnor	12.5	-	14	57	s
Leeds	8.3	0.17	13	55	t	Weston-s-mare	4.5	0.33	15	59	c
Lerwick	3.9	0.04	9	48	r	Weymouth	9.6	0.07	13	55	s

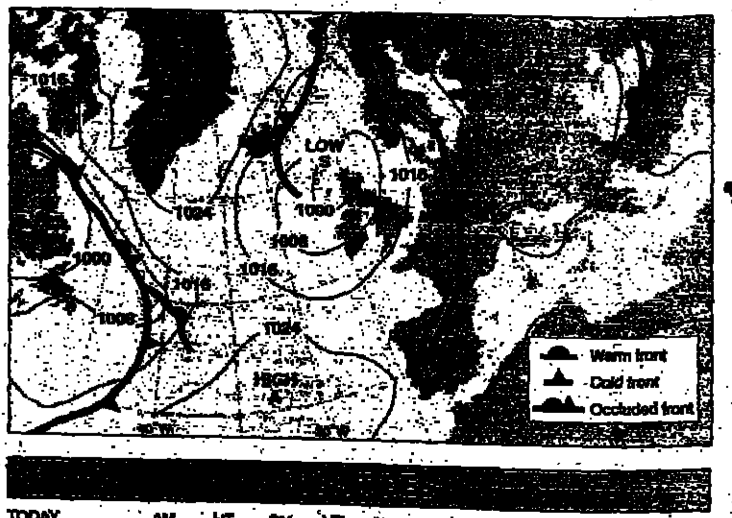
ABROAD

Ajaccio	18	64	s	Corfu	22	72	s	Majorca	22	72	s	Rome	19	66	f
Akrotiri	24	75	s	C'phagn	12	54	c	Malaga	23	73	s	S F'risco	14	57	f
Alex'dria	27	81	s	Dublin	7	45	c	Malta	19	66	f	S Paulo	22	72	c
Algiers	24	75	s	Dubrovnik	18	64	s	Melb'rne	13	55	c	Salzburg	16	61	s
Amst'dm	14	57	f	Faro	20	68	s	Mexico C	19	66	f	Santiago	20	68	c
Athens	23	73	s	Florence	21	70	f	Miami	31	88	s	Seoul	21	70	s
B Aires	25	77	s	Frankfurt	15	59	s	Milan	22	72	f	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	29	84	s	Funchal	20	68	s	Montreal	11	52	s	St'kholm	6	43	c
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	14	57	c	Moscow	20	68	f	Strasb'rg	15	59	c
Barbados	30	86	f	Gibraltar	22	72	s	Munich	16	59	f	Sydney	13	55	r
Barcelona	19	66	s	Helsinki	9	48	f	N Delhi	33	91	s	Tangier	21	70	f
Beirut	25	77	s	Hong K	25	77	c	N York	15	59	s	Tel Aviv	27	81	s
Belgrade	21	70	s	Innsbrck	17	63	s	Nairobi	24	75	c	Tenerife	23	73	f
Berlin	15	59	f	Istanbul	24	75	s	Naples	20	68	f	Tokyo	21	70	s
Bermuda	24	75	c	Jeddah	38	100	s	Nice	18	64	s	Toronto	10	50	c
Biarritz	20	68	f	Jo'burg	16	61	f	Oslo	7	45	r	Tunis	29	84	s
Bord'x	20	68	c	L Angels	20	68	s	Paris	15	59	c	Valencia	21	70	s
Brussels	13	55	c	L Palmas	21	70	c	Peking	18	64	r	Vanc'ver	13	55	s
Budapest	18	64	f	Le Touqet	14	57	f	Perth	19	66	f	Venice	18	64	s
Cairo	33	91	s	Lisbon	18	64	c	Prague	15	59	f	Vienna	18	64	f
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Locarno	14	57	s	Reykjavik	7	45	f	Warsaw	17	63	f
Ch'church	14	57	s	Luxembg	13	55	c	Rhodes	20	68	f	Wash'ton	14	57	f
Chicago	15	59	s	Luxor	39	102	s	Rio de J	23	73	f	Wel'ngton	13	55	x
Cologne	13	55	f	Madrid	19	66	f	Riyadh	34	93	s	Zurich	15	59	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Saturday. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low R moves east as it fills; low S sees little movement as it fills slowly; high A drifts west as it builds; high N stays unchanged



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	06.13	6.9	18.27	6.8	Leith	07.09	4.9	19.39	4.8
Aberdeen	05.42	3.7	18.24	3.5	Liverpool	03.21	8.5	15.49	8.2
Avonmouth	11.34	11.2	23.44	11.1	Lowestoft	02.06	2.2	14.00	2.3
Belfast	*03.27*	3.3	16.04	3.0	Margate	04.21	4.4	16.30	4.3
Cardiff	11.20	10.5	23.30	10.3	Milford Haven	10.41	5.9	22.57	5.9
Devonport	10.07	4.7	22.13	4.9	Newquay	09.35	5.9	21.53	5.9
Dover	03.15	6.1	15.39	6.0	Oban	10.06	3.1	22.07	3.2
Dublin (N Wall)	03.57	3.8	16.34	3.6	Penzance	09.02	4.7	21.23	4.8
Falmouth	*09.38*	4.5	21.44	4.7	Portland	11.16	1.4	23.19	1.5
Greenock	04.31	3.3	17.12	2.9	Portsmouth	03.28	4.2	16.09	4.2
Harwich	04.02	3.7	16.15	3.5	Shoreham	03.08	5.6	15.42	5.6
Holyhead	02.35	5.1	15.08	4.8	Southampton	02.58	4.2	15.26	4.1
Hull (Albert D)	10.40	7.9	23.16	7.5	Swansea	10.42	8.1	23.00	8.1
Ilfracombe	*10.23*	*7.9*	22.36	7.6	Tees	08.06	4.9	20.43	4.7
King's Lynn	10.39	5.8	23.20	5.4	Walton-on-N	03.58	3.8	16.11	3.7

All times BST, Heights in metres

Sun rises: 5.14 am

Sun sets: 8.41 pm

Moon sets 12.50 am

Moon rises 10.16 am

First quarter May 14

London 8.41 pm to 5.12 am
Bristol 8.51 pm to 5.22 am
Edinburgh 9.14 pm to 5.04 am
Manchester 8.58 pm to 5.12 am
Penzance 8.58 pm to 5.39 am

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